

Kuwait calls for U.S., British military bases

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait, trying to fill the security vacuum caused by the departure of Western forces, has called for the creation of U.S. and British military bases in the emirate.

Kuwait says it fears that Iraq might risk acts of aggression against it after the withdrawal of the forces which helped expel Baghdad's occupation armies at the end of February.

The call for British and U.S. bases was made late on Thursday at a meeting between members of Kuwait's National Assembly and Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah.

"Participants at the meeting called for expanding proposals presented by the deputy prime minister to include setting up bases for the United States and Britain after the ordeal which Kuwait passed through under Iraqi occupation," said Rashid Awad Jawsiri, deputy head of the assembly.

Kuwait's Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah warned on the anniversary of the invasion that Iraq had not given up its designs on the emirate. The threat of new aggression was still there, he said.

Following the ending of Iraq's occupation by U.S.-led troops, Kuwait and its key Arab allies Egypt and Syria drew up an agreement under which Cairo and Damascus would provide the bulk of a post-war Gulf security force.

The agreement collapsed after months of wrangling on the size,

cost and role of the pan-Arab force.

Sheikh Salem, who is also deputy prime minister, said the emirate's National Assembly was solidly behind government security plans.

Kuwait, whose army swiftly collapsed as Iraqi troops swept across its border on Aug. 2 last year, now sees Western protection as the best guarantee against future attack by Iraq, although, it is rebuilding and rearming its own forces.

The remaining 3,700 U.S. soldiers in Kuwait are due to leave next month. The last British ground forces were pulled out at the end of July.

Kuwait is a member of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council, whose mutual defence pact failed to deter the Iraqi invasion.

Kuwait's giant neighbour Iran is eager to play a key role in post-war Gulf security but the emirate's call for the creation of Western bases in the northern Gulf is likely to draw criticism from Tehran which considers regional states should look after their own security.

The Gulf states' relations with Iran dramatically improved during the Gulf war when it remained neutral but vociferously opposed to the Iraqi invasion and seven-month occupation of Kuwait.

Sheikh Salem said Tuesday that Iran and Turkey were vital to regional security.

Britain and the United States have said they are prepared to keep naval forces in the Gulf.

Polisario to discuss Sahara with U.N. chief

ALGIERS (R) — Leaders of Polisario guerrillas fighting Morocco for independence in the Western Sahara will meet U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar in Geneva Monday to discuss stalled plans to settle the dispute.

A Polisario spokesman quoted by the official Algerian news Agency APS said Mohammed Abdul Aziz, president of the self-styled Saharan Arab Democratic Republic proclaimed by Polisario, had sent a letter to Mr. Perez de Cuellar asking him to take urgent steps "to save the United Nations peace plan."

Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdul Latif Filali had similar talks in Geneva with Mr. Perez de Cuellar Aug. 13.

A U.N. plan accepted by both sides proposes a ceasefire on Sept. 6 and a referendum in January when the people of the former Spanish colony will choose either independence or integration with Morocco, which controls four fifths of the disputed territory.

But King Hassan said Tuesday the U.N. plan adopted by the Security Council last April was far behind schedule and asked for it to be postponed to allow more time to make arrangements for the referendum.

The Polisario said Friday that Moroccan troops had attacked Bir Lahlou, a small oasis outside Moroccan defence lines which has been used in the past by the Polisario as the base for its communications.

According to Hakim Ibrahim, the Polisario representative in Algiers, Morocco has engaged nearly 100,000 troops in military operations this week.

It said such moves "blocked the peace process" and had "plunged the region into a climate of war."

Soviet Union seeks more active role in Cyprus talks

NICOSIA (Agencies) — A Soviet envoy expressed doubts Friday about a United States proposal for a four-party meeting on Cyprus and signalled his country was seeking a more active role on efforts to reunite the divided island.

"We have certain doubts on this matter...there are elements in this idea which make us a bit dubious," Soviet envoy Yuri Fokin told Greek Turkish Cypriot journalists at a news conference held in the buffer zone dividing Nicosia.

Washington has proposed a meeting under the auspices of the U.N. bringing together Greece, Turkey, President George Vassiliou and Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş.

Cyprus has been divided since the Turkish invasion of 1974 following a short-lived coup inspired by the military junta then ruling Greece.

There has been a flurry of diplomatic activity on Cyprus, recently raising hopes of a breakthrough in the stalemate over representation at the proposed talks.

President George Bush said earlier this month he had invited the four parties to attend a meeting in the United States in September.

The Soviet diplomat said he was doubtful such a meeting could take place.

He said the Soviet Union was unhappy that it had not been consulted by Washington. "We see no reason why we should not be acting together on this."

Mr. Fokin, a former ambassador to Cyprus, said Moscow did not reject the idea of a four-party meeting, but suggested a wider conference with strong U.N. involvement would be more appropriate.

He said he had understood that Mr. Denktaş was not happy with the Bush proposal.

The internationally-recognised government of Cyprus would

ideally like two representatives at the proposed talks — one representing the government and the other the Greek Cypriot community.

In a reference to the failed coup against Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, Mr. Fokin said his country was still a great power despite its domestic problems.

Fokin stressed that the abortive attempt to overthrow Mikhail Gorbachev would not alter Soviet foreign policy.

"I want to make it clear that the Soviet Union is actively participating, it is not withdrawing from its international obligations anywhere," he said.

Mr. Fokin arrived in Cyprus Tuesday, during the coup, for talks on reuniting the island in a two-state federation.

He said Friday that the Soviet Union "as a member of the Security Council and as a nation that will remain a great power, whatever the disturbances in our home country, it will continue to have extensive interests here in this area."

"Nothing will make us go. We shall be looking after the state interests of the USSR in this area just as in many others."

Continuing his complaint about Mr. Bush's Cyprus initiative, he said that he thought the Soviet Union "is more loyal to our friends in the United States" than the other way around.

Following his visits to Athens and Ankara last month Mr. Bush proposed the four-party conference in the United States.

Greece and Cyprus however want a wider international conference including the five permanent members of the Security Council. A wider conference under strong United Nations auspices has been a long-standing Soviet approach to the Cyprus problem.

Judge upholds firm's claim against Iraq

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal judge Thursday affirmed his \$64.1 million award to an American company that contended the Iraqi government breached a contract to buy industrial furnaces.

U.S. District Judge Stanley Sporkin rejected the Bush administration's argument that his order conflicts with U.S. economic sanctions imposed on Iraq. The administration said it was working towards an "orderly resolution" of all U.S. claims against Iraq.

Mr. Sporkin ruled on April 5 that Consarc Corporation of Rancho, New Jersey, was entitled to \$9.1 million in costs and \$55 million in damages from Iraq, from four industrial furnaces it custom-built for the Baghdad government.

Iraq had told the company it would use the furnaces to produce artificial limbs for victims from its war with Iran. But U.S. officials contended the furnaces would be used to produce nuclear weapons and lightweight titanium parts for extending the range of Iraqi missiles.

Consarc, the nation's largest producer of specialty furnaces for the automobile, aerospace and aircraft industries, contended that Iraq used fraud and deceit to skirt U.S. restrictions on exporting weapons components.

The company also said that Iraq, but invading Kuwait last August, prevented shipment of the furnaces and breached its contract.

Iraq never answered the lawsuit, and there is no mechanism to free Iraqi assets frozen by the U.S. government to make the award approved by Mr. Sporkin.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Two U.S. F-16s arrive in Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — The first two of 60 improved warplanes flew in to Israel from the United States Thursday were welcomed as a boost to Israel's military posture. The model integrates Israeli and American technology and warplanes' chances of survival in battle, a military source condition of anonymity. The others are expected in Israel end of 1992 as part of a 1988 agreement, the source said. The plane costs approximately \$25 million and is part of the U.S. military assistance programme to Israel, he added. The U.S. receives \$1.8 billion in U.S. military aid annually. The warplanes were developed in a joint Israeli-U.S. project, incorporated advanced air-ground and radio attack systems, military source said. At the welcoming ceremony at an air base, air force commander Major General Bin Nun, despite the peace process developing in the Middle East, us are many difficult missions and challenges. "Even agreement that is achieved in our region will be based on the army's strength and the air force's ability to be a deterrent. The military source explained that the improved F-16s were to compensate Israel for its scrapping the production of fighter plane in 1987. The U.S.-funded Lavi project was under strong American pressure because it had gone over

Pro-Israeli militiaman killed

TEL AVIV (R) — A militiaman of the Israeli-backed Lebanese Army (SLA) was killed and three others were wounded in an explosive device in South Lebanon Friday, Israeli sources said. SLA forces retaliated by shelling villages in Israel's self-declared South Lebanon "security zone." The explosion was near the village of Brashet inside the zone. The Jewish state and its client militia in 1985 a cross-border guerrilla incursions. Israeli Radio said the pro Hizbollah (Party of God) had claimed responsibility for the killing. An SLA fighter was killed in the zone Thursday when he

WWF urges valves to be put in Kuwaiti

GENEVA (R) — The World Wide Fund for nature (WWF) Kuwait Thursday to put safety valves in any new oil wells to try to prevent a repeat of the environmental disaster caused by Iraq invasion. A report on the environmental effects of the invasion said that if the Kuwaiti wells had been equipped with proper safety devices there would have been fewer fires, valves hundreds of metres deep would have cut off the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation official in London, contacted Reuters by phone, said the deep safety valves referred to WWF report had not been invented at the time the Kuwaiti wells were drilled and were impossible to add after drilling. The devices were not even thought about when Kuwait was "oil," he said. But he said if Kuwait drilled new wells after the hundreds Iraq had set on fire, it would probably use deep safety valves as an insurance measure, even though not normally used onshore. The report said damage caused by Iraqi army opening the taps and spilling millions of barrels into the Gulf was the worst marine ecological disaster in history.

2 Iranians jailed in New York in drug

HAUPPAUGE, New York (AP) — Two brothers charged with bringing more than 40 kilograms of heroin into the United States were sentenced to 25 years in prison, a court official said. District Judge Leonard Wexler Wednesday sentenced Razzaghy, 31, and Kamran Razzaghy, 29, both of whom Iranian immigrants. Court Deputy Josiah Kharjic said the brothers had been indicted for heroin dealing charges in 1987 and had a deal to act as informants for federal agents. While working informants, however, they used young women from Long Island to smuggle drugs into the country. One of the women, a Frankfurt, Germany, when a heroin-filled condom swallowed burst. Mr. Kharjic said Mr. Wexler also fined the brothers \$600,000 and confiscated their homes in New York state. Razzaghy is the son of the former chief prosecutor in Iran.

Sudan relief convoy heads west

KHARTOUM (R) — A convoy of 102 trucks loaded with relief supplies for Darfur state in western Sudan, State said it was the start of a programme to take 30,000 tonnes of aid to Darfur. It did not say how long the programme would last. Transport Minister Colonel Saleh al-Din Karrar, a member of the ruling military council, saw off the convoy Thursday, telling the food they carried would bring down prices in Darfur and help the people there. Darfur also suffers food shortages and is far from the country's main seaport, Port Sudan. Roads are poor and the Sudan News Agency reported this week that 22 restlers had been killed in a shootout with police west of Khartoum. A policeman had an informant who told the gang's hideout also died.

Sudan protests British treatment of Sudan

KHARTOUM (AP) — The government has protested treatment of two Sudanese who have been charged with extremist activities against Sudanese opposition elements. The Sudan News Agency (SUNA) reported, SUNA Ahmad Al Tigani Saleh, a senior Foreign Ministry official threatening to retaliate if the British government did not reconsider its position. Mr. Saleh said that unless British came up with concrete evidence, Sudan would consider the situation as an attempt to defame the reputation of a Sudanese. The agency said Mr. Saleh presented the strong to an unidentified British embassy diplomat Wednesday. 25 British authorities arrested Sudan's cultural attaché, M. Abakar, and Mohammad Mahjoub, a Sudanese student at Britain. They were charged with planning "terrorist" activities on the same day because of his diplomatic immunity but SUNA said an expulsion would be "a contradiction" to the international laws, the human rights and diplomatic norms.

Hostage release efforts shift to Iranian capital

BEIRUT (R) — Iran is pushing its efforts to help free Western hostages in a prisoner swap for Shiite Muslims held by Israel, even as the world's attention focuses on the Soviet Union, Shiite Muslim sources said Friday.

"The Soviet events eclipsed news about the hostages, but the efforts towards pulling off the deal continued unabated in Tehran," an informed Shiite source said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

He said Iran was "keen on facilitating" a U.N.-sponsored package deal to free 400 Lebanese held by Israel, in return for the hostages and information on seven Israeli servicemen missing in Lebanon.

The missing Westerners are five Americans, three Britons, two Germans and an Italian. Most of them are believed held by extremist Shiite factions loyal to Iran.

"The Iranians want the hostage file closed, but not at any cost," the source said. "They want to tell their Lebanese supporters that in return for releasing the hostages, we've got your prison-

ers out of Israel."

Israeli negotiators with U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar have pledged to go along with the package deal, but insisted that Israel should first receive detailed and confirmed information about its missing servicemen, dead or alive.

The pro-Iranian Hizbollah, which holds two of the missing Israelis, has so far shied away from providing that information to either the United Nations or the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Red Cross officials in Israel said Friday they have not received any such information. The statement came in response to a report from Beirut Thursday that one of the missing, Israeli air force navigator Ron Arad, is alive and that the Red Cross was informed of this. The ICRC in Israel denied the report.

Hizbollah also wants the ICRC to visit its members, who are among the Shiites held by Israel. But the Jewish state has refused to allow such visits before it receives information on the missing servicemen.

Opposition, government meet to finalise Algerian election

ALGIERS (AP) — Opposition leaders from dozens of parties met with government officials Friday to finish hammering out details for new legislative elections.

Premier Sidahmad Ghazali told the representatives from 42 opposition parties that the government agreed "to take charge of organising the entire electoral process, from setting up the voting booths to announcing the results."

Participants, however, had not yet decided on a specific date for the elections during their talks, which were televised live.

Friday was the second day of discussions on rescheduling the parliamentary elections, which

were to have been held June 27 but were postponed because of violent pro-democracy protests.

The talks had been scheduled for two days, but there was a possibility they would go into a third day Saturday.

Opposition representatives were explaining their demands for democratic and election reform, ranging from redrawing electoral zones judged to be too favourable to the ruling party, to how technicalities such as how families would vote.

It was the second round of talks on rescheduling the balloting, three weeks after the first round was scrapped when accusations flew and the discussions went nowhere.

Sudan junta holds 15 for questioning on coup plot

NICOSIA (R) — Sudan's ruling junta has detained 15 people for questioning about a plot to overthrow it, exiled politicians and press reports said Friday.

They said five colonels and four lieutenant-colonels were arrested Tuesday. Four retired army officers and two civilians known to be members of former Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi's Umma Party were detained on the following day.

"They are being questioned secretly about an alleged coup plot," former commander-in-chief of Sudan's armed forces, Fathi Ahmad Ali, told Reuters from his exile in Alexandria, Egypt.

"It is an excuse to get rid of those whose loyalty to the junta is

in doubt. It is their way of putting fear in the hearts of others," said Mr. Ali, who lost his command the day Mr. Omar Hassan Ali Bashir seized power from Mr. Mahdi's government in a June 30, 1989 coup.

"They may be summarily tried and executed. Pressure from outside must be put on that regime to prevent it."

General Bashir's 12-man junta, after a secret trial lasting a few hours, executed 28 army officers in April last year for an alleged plot to overthrow it.

The junta, growingly anti-Western and known to have close links with militant Muslims, has ruled Africa's largest country with the wide reaching powers of emergency laws.

An overnight curfew in Khartoum enforced when the junta seized power is still in force. Tanks guard main intersections.

There has been no word from Khartoum on the arrests or the alleged coup plot, but reports in two Arabic, London-based dailies said Gen. Bashir's government planned to issue a statement soon giving details of the alleged plot.

The newspapers quoted Sudanese sources as saying the plot was incited by Mr. Mahdi's Umma Party which, in a statement sent to Reuters in Cyprus, denied the charge.

It described the coup plot as a junta creation to justify fresh purges in the armed forces, citing

what it said was the dismissal of 450 army officers since last month.

The junta's vow never to hand power back to civilians, lack of progress in efforts to end an eight-year-old civil war in the south of the country and its support of Iraq during the Gulf crisis have led to its virtual isolation abroad.

Gen. Bashir's support for the foiled hardline communist coup in Moscow could only deepen that isolation, diplomats said.

But his government says it has successfully fought corruption and black marketeering, restored law and order, achieved food self-sufficiency and freed most prisoners.

Rumours, little explanation for Tehran bazaar fires

TEHRAN (R) — Two new fires struck the Tehran bazaar this week, prompting rumours — but few hard facts — about a rash of blazes in the capital which have caused millions of dollars' worth of damage.

Theories abound about the cause of the fires, which coincided with official criticism of bazaar merchants.

The most common blames a shadowy group nicknamed "The Barefoot Ones," bent on fighting wheeler-dealers who became rich in the economic turmoil of recent years.

Others link the fires to political fighting or to efforts by Tehran Mayor Hossein Karbaschi to establish order in this city of seven million.

Officials have said at least two of the five fires which hit the bazaar since July 29 were deliberate. Fires have also broken out in

business establishments in other Iranian cities. Police have made no arrests.

A police officer quoted by the Iranian news agency IRNA said an electrical short-circuit was the cause of one of the latest blazes which gutted a fabric workshop Monday night.

"I have heard that the fires are deliberate and some people are behind them, and I have heard of 'The Barefoot Ones,'" said Mehdi, a young carpet-dealer in the bazaar.

"Everyone is confused, it is not clear what is happening. I have not seen any myself but everyone is talking about leaflets which oppose rich bazaaris (merchants) and threaten to close down the bazaar," he said.

Several businessmen interviewed Wednesday said they believed hardliners opposed to President Akbar Hashemi Raf-

sanjani's liberal economic policies were behind the fires.

They said whoever was setting the fires aimed to destabilise the government before parliament elections early next year.

Another common view blames Mayor Karbaschi, accused by critics of using heavy-handed methods to collect municipal taxes.

Some businessmen say the arson attacks were inspired by a remark by Mr. Karbaschi that the concentration of shops, workshops and trading houses in the run-down bazaar in central Tehran was unsuitable for a modern city.

Although worried merchants initially removed documents and merchandise, the bazaar was packed on Wednesday.

Mr. Mehdi's small shop, 300 metres from the site of the first and most damaging fire which

burned carpets worth several million dollars, was stacked to the ceiling with rugs.

Bazaar merchants supported the 1979 Islamic revolution against the Shah but many were unhappy with state controls built up during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.

They welcomed Mr. Rafsanjani's reforms but the president, as well as supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, have recently mixed some criticism with their usual praise for the bazaaris.

Mr. Rafsanjani threatened two weeks ago to take action against businessmen whom he accused of cornering the market in unspecified goods and creating artificial shortages.

The English-language Kapan International said earlier this month that people were indifferent to the fires because many saw bazaar merchants as greedy.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel. 773111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Le Chevalier de Labyrinth
18:30	Documentary
19:00	News in French
19:15	Carnet de Notes
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Kate and Allie
21:00	Encounter
21:30	Classical Music
22:00	News in English
22:30	Feature Film
PRAYER TIMES	
04:30	Fajr
06:00	(Sunrise) Duhr
12:58	Duhr
16:16	Asr
19:16	Maghreb
20:36	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swidieh, Tel. 810740	
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632705	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624500	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637408	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrasanta Church Tel. 623666	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623441	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Assyrian International Church Tel. 683326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 812095	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 623624, 654932	
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691	
WEATHER	
Buletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Normal summer weather will prevail and winds will be easterly light to moderate. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Amman	Min./Max. temp. 18/31
Agaba	25/38
Deserts	19/36
Jordan Valley	24/32

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Mohammad Al Ajam	894184
Dr. Fayez Jallouh	642027
Dr. Sabih Tamoun	898903
Dr. Hassan Kanaan	790286
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferdous pharmacy	770336
Al Ascent pharmacy	637055
Natroukh pharmacy	623672
Al Sakan pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Samsadani pharmacy	637660
EBRU:	
Dr. Abdul Majid Gharaibeh	(—)
Al Shamsa pharmacy	(279525)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Khalil Abu Hmeida	(—)
Khalil pharmacy	985417

EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	630341
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	991228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	677279
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Cable	010230
Central Amman Telephone	674153
Repairs	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	731111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power	(—)

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Coalition building: The divisive politics of the left and right

This is the third article of a four-part series on the establishment of political parties in Jordan as part of its ongoing democratisation movement. In this article, the writer describes the problems of liberal and conservative parties as they try to build coalitions.

By Marwan M. Shalabi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — New political groupings are finding that they share many of the same problems with established political parties as they try to organise themselves to take advantage of the expected passage of the Political Parties Law.

But while they may be plagued by the same organisational problems, they often have different prescriptions for solving them.

The very nature of a political party of group seems to dictate at least some of the organisational problems that they may face. Independent political observers have noted that left wing parties often have organisational problems in reaching a consensus on most issues than parties which are conservative or religious.

"The stated nature of conservative and religious parties is in and of itself more absolutist and somewhat dictatorial," said one of the five current ministers who is a member of the Jordanian Arab Nationalist Democratic Coalition (JANDC).

Preferring anonymity because of his cabinet post, the minister said that "leftists are in theory more liberal and thus often rebel against a decision they feel may be imposed on them."

Splits in the Jordanian left are foreseen and some have already occurred as a result of the differences in opinion. One of the most notable public splits within an existing political group occurred last year, when a group belonging to the Jordan Peoples Democratic Party (JPDP) split to form the Jordan Democratic Party (JDP).

Members and leaders of both groups agreed on basic socialist principles but differed in their application. As a result and much to the detriment of leftists in Jordan, there was a split within the party shortly after the JPDP was founded.

Analysts say that much of the turmoil that leftist parties

are facing in Jordan and worldwide can be correlated to changes in the Soviet Union and the opening up of its Communist Party.

Yusef Hourani, member of the political bureau of the Jordanian Democratic Party, which split from the JPDP last August, feels that a new dialogue is emerging among leftists.

"Because most of us lived in an atmosphere of fear and oppression during the years when political activities were outlawed, we became like our oppressors and distanced ourselves from a democratic system," Mr. Hourani recently told the Jordan Times.

"Inside our parties," "there were dictators. Then there was a rebellion against this and now we are in the process of a dialogue," Mr. Hourani said.

He argues that leftist parties must remain revolutionary if they intend to continue being progressive. "There is no real progress in a dictatorship. Only dialogue and the willingness to change pragmatically to meet the ever changing needs of people will make a leftist party genuinely successful," he said.

Recent talk of reform within the Jordanian Communist Party has led to internal splits. A Communist party member recently told the Jordan Times that the dispute is two-fold: "There is a split in the leadership and then there is an expected difference of opinion between the leadership and its followers," he said.

"That's why there has been no general congress, because the leadership fears it may lose control," he said on condition of anonymity.

While the left is busy discussing inter-party pluralism, the conservative groups appear to be consolidating their power by organising a coalition of groups and organisations which share their ideological orientation.

Headed by the recently established Al Ahd Party, a congress of 70 "groups and

personalities" are expected to meet in early September to form an organised conservative coalition.

Retired Brigadier General Abdul Hadi Al Majali, Al Ahd's founder, calls his party "centrist. But political observers have labelled the party as one which is right wing in that it promotes the interests of the traditional establishment."

Mr. Majali says that his party will actively target all citizens not already involved in left-wing or Islamic politics. "Most people in Jordan are not politically organised, thus our constituency is potentially very large," Mr. Majali said in a recent interview.

Having invited a large number of originally West Bank personalities to attend the congress in September and join the coalition, Al Ahd has diffused rumors that it was an exclusively East Bank party.

"Our opponents have charged that we are regionalist and differentiate between East and West Bank Jordanians. The make-up of our parties and coalition will prove otherwise," Mr. Majali said.

Regardless of any intent to strengthen the east-west bank divide, many political observers believe that popular participation by west bank Jordanians, both in leadership positions and at the polls, will dramatically increase during the next Parliamentary elections.

"The lines have been drawn," said one government official. "Many Palestinians in Jordan now believe that they will never return to Palestine. Thus their participation in the political make-up of Jordan will increase."

"Many more Palestinian-Jordanians are likely to run in the next legislative elections," said the official who asked to remain anonymous. During the last elections, many felt that east bank Jordanians had more of a right to be in Parliament, next time this will be different."

Left or right, religious or secular, any party wishing to be powerful in Jordan must attract what is known to many politicians as the "west bank vote," analysts said.



Queen Noor turns 40

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor celebrated her 40th birthday Friday.

Throughout her years of marriage to His Majesty King Hussein, Queen Noor has actively promoted integrated human and socio-economic development in the country.

The Noor al Hussein Foundation, which she founded in 1985, is now Jordan's leading non-governmental organisation in the service of total human development and has set new standards in the country's efforts to enhance the quality of life of individuals and communities.

Numerous women and needy communities throughout the Kingdom are benefiting from the Foundation's extensive range of integrated development projects and programmes in the areas of health, nutrition, education, culture, art and the environment. They are also enjoying improved standards of living as a result of the innovative income generating schemes in small scale industries, agriculture, agro-industries, crafts and self-employing businesses which the Foundation has helped them establish and implement.

NHF's innovative rural development projects have been recognised internationally by the UNFPA and the WHO as prototype models of successful development for the region.

During the past year, Queen Noor urged flexible and responsive cooperation and coordination among Jordanian institutions to address Jordan's new economic realities and human needs.

Short term relief for the most needy, especially those returning from the Gulf war extended by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, working hand in hand with other concerned institutions. Longer term income generating projects

were also established to help repatriates and others affected by the crisis find jobs and establish self-reliant means of livelihood.

Queen Noor's involvement with humanitarian issues has received international recognition, especially this past year as she played a key role in focusing world attention on the plight of the hundreds of thousands of evacuees who fled the Gulf war across Jordan and in mobilising international aid for their well-being and repatriation.

During and after the Gulf crisis, the Queen worked continuously to promote international understanding of the facts and principles underlying Jordan's position during the crisis and of Jordan's role as a political, humanitarian and socio-economic development model for the Middle East region.

During several working visits to the United States and Europe, Queen Noor addressed international affairs organisations, promoted Jordanian archaeological and ethnographic exhibitions, and contributed actively to Jordan's efforts to revitalise tourism into the country in the aftermath of the Gulf crisis.

The Queen also represented King Hussein at the World Summit for Children in New York last October and emphasised the Declaration's provisions regarding commitment to protect children and their families from the scourge of war.

Queen Noor has a degree in architecture and urban planning from Princeton University in the U.S.A. She has received honorary doctorates from several universities and international awards in recognition of her efforts to promote human development and global understanding. The Queen is also a patron of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (I.U.C.N.).

Special ceremony held in memory of the late Abdul Wahab Al Majali

KARAK (Petra) — A special ceremony was held Thursday at Mutah University in remembrance of the late Abdul Wahab Al Majali, who passed away in Amman last month and was laid to rest in his hometown of Yarut, in the Karak governorate.

The late Mr. Majali was born in Yarut in 1924, where he attended high school. Then he pursued his higher education and earned a law degree from the University of Damascus in 1945.

Mr. Majali held a number of prominent posts in government, including Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister from 1985 to 1987.

Addressing the ceremony were a number of prominent Jordanian figures, including Senate Member Hamad, Al Farhan, Dr. Jamal Shaer, Dr. Khalil Al Salem, the general mufti of Jordan Sheikh Izzuddin Al Khatib, Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research (Al Al Bayt Foundation) President Naser Uddin Al Assad, and Ahmad Tarawneh.

Speakers recalled the late Mr. Majali's efforts in serving Jordan and building the national eco-



Abdul Wahab Al Majali

nomy and praised his dedication to his country and people. The ceremony was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Transport and Telecommunication Minister Ali Suheimat, a number of cabinet ministers, deputies and senate members. Also in attendance were a number of statesmen, the governor of Karak and the president of Mutah University.

Jordan to seek greater economic ties with Iran

AMMAN (R) — Jordan, seeking markets to replace those lost in the Gulf crisis, hopes normalised ties with Iran will provide a new business boom.

Minister of Trade, Industry and Supply Ali Abu Al Ragheb was leading a trade team to Tehran on Friday, the first such trip to Iran in a decade.

Amman this year after backing Iraq during its 1980-88 war with Iran. "We hope Jordanian-Iranian ties will witness a new era of economic cooperation through sealing several new agreements to increase and develop bilateral trade," Mr. Ragheb said, adding that the huge Iranian market could absorb many of Jordan's products.

"Our new policy now is to try and get into non-traditional markets that will not be affected by any political developments," he told Reuters in an interview.

Oil-rich Gulf states, mainly Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, once among Jordan's main importers, have not yet lifted a ban imposed on industrial and agricultural goods to punish Amman's sympathy for Iraq during the Gulf crisis.

They are giving trade preference to countries which participated in the U.S.-led military alliance which drove Iraq from Kuwait in February after its seven-month occupation.

Amman, observing U.N. economic sanctions imposed on Iraq, once its main trading partner, is now turning to new markets such as the United States, Europe and North Africa.

It has set up a 10-million-dollar (\$15 million) fund to support exports to non-traditional buyers but is having difficulty cracking the tough European market.

Mr. Ragheb said Iran had agreed to

buy 250,000 tonnes of fertilisers in 1991 in a \$65 million deal.

He said talks were underway to sell a similar amount of phosphates in a deal he hoped would be concluded soon.

Mr. Ragheb said the warm invitation he had received from his Iranian counterpart to visit Tehran reflected Iran's readiness to favour Amman in industrial, commercial and services deals.

Jordanian businessmen believe that entry to the Iranian market will be easy because the government, rather than the private sector, retains control over major imports and exports and funds such deals, facilitating international trade.

Mr. Ragheb said Jordan could sell large volumes of clothing, carpeting and electrical appliances to Iran's trade-hungry 55-million population.

Jordanian-Iraqi border is site of heavy smuggling activity, security forces increase patrol of area

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian security forces have stepped up patrols along the border with Iraq and customs inspections at the border post have been tightened to counter what senior officials describe as an unprecedented rise in attempts to smuggle goods into Jordan and armed clashes with would-be smugglers.

"In addition to small arms — in some cases machineguns — automobile spare parts, electronic goods, industrial metal and cable lead the list of goods recently intercepted while on their way to Jordan," said one security source, who requested anonymity.

"On several occasions the smugglers refused to obey orders to stop and opened fire on security forces resulting in casualties," the source said. He declined to confirm or deny reports that at least two Jordanian security men were killed in shootouts in the desert.

However, the source confirmed that dozens of arrests have been made in the last few weeks and that suspects had been referred to the concerned authorities for legal proceedings.

"Extra forces have been deployed along the border and communication facilities have been improved and we hope that the situation is more or less under control now," said the source.

An abundance of new and used electronic goods in the Iraqi market at cheap prices is seen as having given rise to attempts at large-scale smuggling, officials say.

Most items being smuggled carry over 50 per cent Jordanian customs duties and successful smugglers' profits are relatively high.

Jordanian authorities have also adopted measures to foil smuggling through the regular border crossing point.

Travellers from Iraq have reported strict inspections at the border post, which was moved 70 kilometres north to near the

Iraqi post of Trebil from Al Ruweished several weeks ago.

"The relatively relaxed procedures have disappeared," said Jordanian taxi driver Mutlaq Hussein.

"They now check every nook and corner of every vehicle. In some cases, they literally take the vehicle apart. It is very difficult to get anything into Jordan without detection these days."

In cases where it can be established that goods are brought into Jordan for personal purposes, the Customs Department applies the relevant procedures and allows the goods into the Kingdom after levying duties. Large-scale commercial shipments are not permitted, customs officials said.

The move of the border post to Trebil is aimed at closely monitoring cross-border movements and checking smuggling after repeated violations, a senior official said noting that the transfer was planned several months ago.

"It is a purely an administrative step aimed at enabling the security forces to strictly watch cross-border movements and counter smugglers," said the official, who preferred anonymity.

"The international sanctions against Iraq is strictly enforced by Jordan."

According to the security source, "smuggling attempts through the border post is mostly limited to electronic goods and spare parts. But attempts to smuggle in arms, metals and bulky vehicle spare parts take place across the desert."

Most of the electronic goods — radios, video recorders and players, cameras, television sets, tape recorders, etc. — as well as automobile spare parts are believed to come from Kuwait, which Iraq invaded in Aug. 2, 1990.

Relief officials have reported that many Iraqi families were selling their possessions to raise money to survive because of the rising cost of living resulting from the continued

international trade embargo on Iraq.

Visitors to the Iraqi capital say that it is a buyer's market in Baghdad for electronic goods and clothes.

Automobile dealers in Amman explained the paradoxical smuggling of spare parts into Jordan by noting that, in most cases, the goods could have come from Kuwait and that the market was better in the Kingdom for them since tens of thousands of vehicles have been brought into Jordan by expatriates from the emirate.

"Some of the American models have never been seen before in Jordan and the local market does not have the necessary spares," said a leading spare-parts dealer at Mahatta.

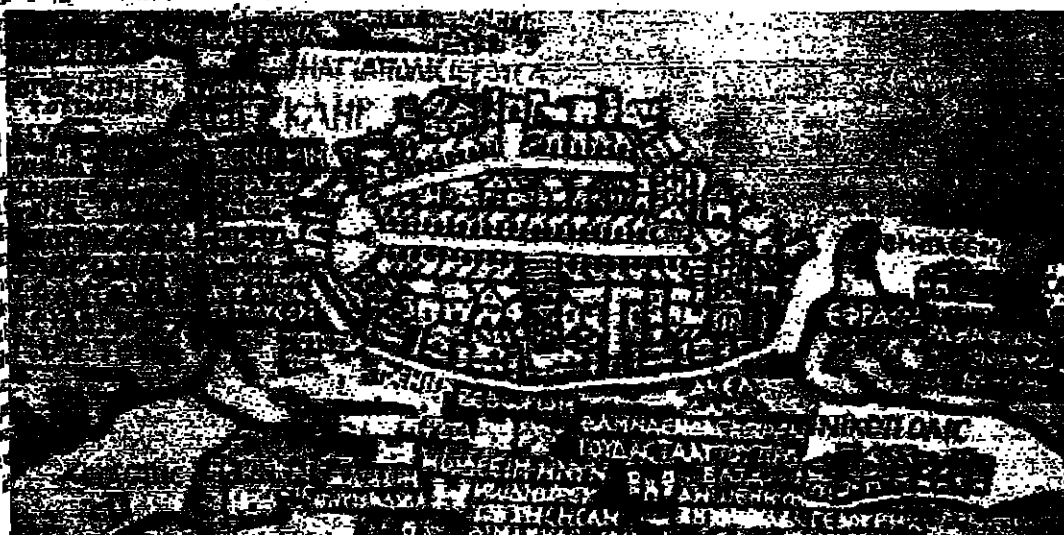
"But spares for these have somehow appeared in the market and they fetch very good prices since there is high demand."

Small arms surfaced in Baghdad following the quelling by the army of rebellions in the north and south in early March following the Gulf war and liberation of Kuwait. These arms are believed to have come from the south, where Iraq accused Iran of instigating the unrest and supplying arms to Iraqi Shiites.

Businessmen noted that Iraq had an abundance of industrial metal and cables in stock at its various production facilities before the imposition of international trade sanctions following the Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

"Thieves have targeted metals and cables in recent robberies in Iraq," said a Jordanian foodstuff merchant who frequently travels to Baghdad. "In one recent incident, the entire stock of an Iraqi metal fabrication plant disappeared but was intercepted on its way to Jordan."

Iraqi media recently broke its silence over the issue and reported the uncovering of what was described as a major organised gang of thieves and smugglers.



The Madaba Mosaic Map. The preservation of this establishment of a school to teach students in this field.

School being established to help uncover and preserve Jordan's mosaics

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's mosaics have become famous internationally and the Kingdom is now extending its efforts to help uncover and preserve the mosaic works undertaken centuries ago.

But it needs expertise and resources to uncover and preserve a mosaic and a school is being set up near Amman to train "mosaic restorers".

The Italian government, which earlier supported mosaic restoration work in Jordan to the tune of \$50,000, is now extending its support to \$200,000 in equipment, materials and scholarships for students and teachers for the school, which is expected to open its doors in time for the next academic year.

The school will be situated at Madaba — Jordan's best known "City of Mosaics" and is expected to train 10 to 15 students who have completed years at regular schools. They will be offered a three-year course, the first two years of which will be in line with the national schooling curriculum and the last year will be devoted to the field of mosaics. Still, they will be trained

at par with tawjihi students and recognised as such.

During the final year of the course, the students will be trained in the intricate art of restoring mosaics by experts from Italy, a country which takes pride in itself as a pioneer in the field.

"Jordan's mosaics are beautiful and very well known in Europe," said Giovanni Benenati of the Cultural Department at the Italian Embassy in Amman. He noted that Jordanian mosaics have gone on exhibition in several European countries.

"There is a lot of potential here for further discovery and restoration of mosaic — in Mount Nebbo, Jerash, Umm Kais and other places," he said.

Mr. Benenati said the school will offer intensive training in all fields of mosaic restoration, including chemistry and chemical treatment for all forms of mosaics as well as mirrors. Scholarships will be awarded to deserving students for further specialised training in Italian institutions, he said.

The proposal to set up the Madaba School was the brainchild of Her Majesty Queen

Noor, who in 1987, during a visit to the town suggested the project.

Most of the restoration work of mosaics in Jordan have been undertaken by Italian experts, headed by professor Michele Piccirilli of the Franciscan Archaeological Institute of Jerusalem.

The Jordanian government has already acquired the buildings to house the school and the Canadian government contributed \$35,000 to refurbish and prepare the premises. Work is already underway at the site.

According to Mr. Benenati, graduates from the school could easily be absorbed into employment or self-employment.

"They can help restoration of mosaics — which is a delicate art requiring skills and expertise, or they can set up their own businesses or be used elsewhere in the construction sector which involves restoration," he said.

In general, he said, in view of the limited number of students expected to be trained at the school there is enough room in Jordan to absorb them.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of traditional embroideries and hand-made items at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings depicting the Jordanian environment by artist Shaker Al Jarrah at the Royal Cultural Centre.

FILM

- ★ German film entitled "Katz and Mame" (cat and mouse) at the Goethe Institute — 8:00 p.m.



MASTERCARD INTERNATIONAL

Following the decision of the banking authorities* in Luxembourg, the Cayman Islands and the United Kingdom to secure control of the assets of banks in the Bank of Credit and Commerce Group (BCCI), MasterCard International wishes to announce that it has terminated the appointment of (BCCI) as its representative member bank in Jordan.

MasterCard International is also pleased to announce the appointment of: British Bank of the Middle East as its representative member bank to conduct acceptance, authorization and payment services for all MasterCard sales vouchers in Jordan.

Accordingly, all MasterCard International accredited merchants previously dealing through (BCCI) in Jordan, and any other merchants who wish to join the global acceptance network of MasterCard International in Jordan should contact as soon as possible the

British Bank of the Middle East
P.O. Box 925286 Jebel Hussein Amman

Please contact Mr. Kamal Sadeq on telephone 692961 Who will be pleased to set up the necessary arrangements.

Jordan Times

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Judiciary on trial?

LAST WEEK'S graduation of the first batch of students from the Jordanian Judiciary Institute should be a reminder of the need to reflect more deeply into the malaise that the Jordanian judicial system continues to suffer from in spite of all the rhetoric about revitalising and modernising it. There is urgency to call for improving that system by injecting into its ranks dynamic elements and factors, especially in the wake of the phasing out of the state of emergency in the country and the introduction of a new defence law. Above all the new leaders of our judicial authorities must become more cognizant of the country's treaty obligations particularly under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which is the backbone of the existing international code of conduct on human rights and judicial safeguards and guarantees. Moreover, it is high time (if not a couple of decades overdue) to introduce some technology into our judicial operations beginning with taking trial transcripts in court proceedings in a more efficient and sensible manner. Thirdly, it is about time that the country's courtrooms began to look like real courts instead of the dismal way they appear now. The country's existing judicial decorum is so absurd and degrading that it belies all protestations that the judiciary in the Kingdom is a matter of high priority. Of course one can always inject the easy argument and scapegoat that the economic situation in the country does not allow for the rectification of such serious and alarming omissions. Yet the stark reality is that successive governments never addressed such judicial requirements or cared about them even when the economic situation in the country did permit their resolution. The evidence accumulated over the past decades suggests that the leaderships of the judicial system in Jordan never demonstrated enough dynamism or ingenuity to tackle seriously such mundane issues related to the efficient operation of the courtroom proceedings. Besides there should not be too much extra cost to making Jordan's courtrooms a cleaner and more proper place for the adjudication of legal issues and disputes. Our judicial officials would be surprised to learn what a couple of brushes and few cans of paint would do to even the most miserable looking courtrooms in Amman or Tafleh. And since public hearings in the conduct of court proceedings is a constitutional right, the size of the majority of our existing courtroom is so small and inappropriate that they obviously interfere woefully with this constitutional right to public hearings. The trouble, as it has always been, is that too many words are said about the judiciary and very little is done about it. It behooves our new minister to take the bull by the horn this time and start doing something tangible to improve things. Even under the existing physical constraints, a great deal can still be done to alleviate the dismal state of affairs in the so-called Palace of Justice and elsewhere where our courts are dispersed.

There are other substantive problems that still haunt true development in this sphere. The overriding one is of course the matter of the supervisory role of the judiciary over the other branches of government. This, all jurists concede; cannot be achieved as long as the issue of the appointment of judges and their retirement remains essentially in the hands of the executive branch of government. How can anyone forget how a previous government, which was not content with the way the higher courts of the land were rendering judgements, resorted to retire a number of supreme court judges in order to make way to judges of their liking? The only effective way to resolve this perennial problem is to make the appointment and retirement of judges subject to the scrutiny of parliament as well. The moral of the judicial story is that there is a great deal of improvement to make, and the country is impatiently waiting for a real effort to be started in that direction.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

ISRAEL has just taken delivery of 16 warplanes, which Washington said were needed to ensure Israel's superiority, and the planes are being sent at a time when James Baker is said to be planning a fresh tour of the Middle East region, said Al Ra'i daily Friday. If Baker is coming to promote the peace process, the new war planes definitely do not contribute to this objective and can by no means help the cause of peace because they are bound to force Israel's hand and encourage its intransigence, said the paper. The peace process clearly does not require an encouragement of arms-building but rather confidence-building among the concerned parties, a process which Washington is disregarding, the paper continued. If the U.S. is really concerned with the establishment of a just and durable peace with ensuring Baker's success in his efforts, said the paper, the Israelis should not be encouraged to launch aggression with sophisticated weapons. Washington's jubilation over Gorbachev's success and the legitimacy with regard to world issues and stop Israel's aggressive attitudes with regard to the establishment of a durable peace, the paper added.

Sawt Al Shaab daily commented Friday on a call by Israel's Defence Minister Moshe Arens on the Arab countries to adopt democracy and said that it is Israel which is undemocratic because it continues to occupy other countries by force denying the Palestinians their human rights. The paper said that Mr. Arens considers the Jewish state a democratic nation in the Middle East ignoring the fact that it is a state that was founded on terrorism and repression against the Arab people ignoring the fact that it is pursuing all aggressive policies against the Arab countries. The paper noted that as Mr. Arens speaks about democratic rule his troops continue to seize Arab lands, imprison Arab citizens, and demolish Arab homes in Palestine.

Mythmaking: An exercise in Israeli propaganda

"For the past 43 years, the government of Israel and its embassies and supporters around the world have been colluding in a process best described as 'mythmaking' in order to realise their cherished dream of creating a Jewish state in the whole of historic Palestine. To this end, a variety of talents have been employed, from scholars and journalists to human rights campaigners and politicians."

According to an article recently published by the London-based Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding (CAABU), one such "mythmaker" is Harry V. Lerner, an attorney in Bethesda, Maryland, who wrote an article entitled "Read the law: Gaza is not Kuwait" published in the Wall Street Journal (Europe) of April 23, 1991.

According to the CAABU article, Lerner's piece "is currently being distributed by the Israeli embassy in London as part of its ongoing campaign to deprive the Palestinian people of their national rights and, indeed, of all the rights acknowledged as being legitimately theirs by the international community."

Following are the texts of both CAABU's and Lerner's articles:

Mr. Lerner's article sets out to prove that United Nations Resolution 242 can be interpreted in a way which not only fails to condemn Israel's occupation of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, East Jerusalem, the Golan Heights and Sinai in 1967, but even approves its possession of the West Bank and Gaza as "a matter of right." This is mythmaking of the highest order and cannot be

allowed to escape unremarked. To begin with, Mr. Lerner refers to the question of "linkage" between Iraq's occupation of Kuwait in August 1990 and Israel's occupation of large areas of Arab land in June 1967 — an issue which was raised in some quarters during the Gulf crisis. Although the ways in which the occupations occurred — one being an act of unprovoked

aggression and the other the outcome of a war — the end result nonetheless was the same: a state of belligerent occupation. In both cases, an external power occupied a territory which did not belong to it and, with the territory, a population which did not wish to be under its rule.

It is important to note that Israel's version of events in 1967 is not the only one. The crisis which led to the 1967 war did not begin with Egypt asking the United Nations to remove the U.N. peacekeeping force from its side of the Egyptian-Israeli armistice line, as Mr. Lerner implies, nor did it start with Syrian shelling of Israeli villages, to which he also makes reference.

In reality, Israel had been deliberately, and repeatedly, breaking the terms of the armistice agreements which it had signed with its Arab neighbours in 1948-49. On the border with Syria, Israel expelled those Palestinians still remaining within the demilitarised zones after 1949. Israeli settlers then began to encroach upon the land of these zones. This, clearly, was a violation of the Syrian-Israeli armistice

agreement, which had provided that the status quo within the demilitarised zones would not be altered. Syrian gunners opened fire on the Israeli settlers in response to their actions in breaching the armistice agreement.

The countdown to the 1967 war began in earnest when Israel sent an armoured tractor into a demilitarised area in April 1967, fully aware what the Syrian response would be. When the Syrians fired on the tractor, Israeli jet fighters bombed the Golan Heights and, in the process, shot down six Syrian aircraft. At this point, Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli chief of staff, threatened to attack Damascus. The Syrian government, thoroughly alarmed, then appealed to Egypt for assistance, under the Mutual Defence Pact, which had been concluded between the two countries in November of the previous year.

Egypt responded by asking the U.N. to withdraw its peacekeeping forces and, after the withdrawal, by closing the Strait of Tiran to Israeli shipping, which would have affected 10 per cent of Israel's trade. Egypt, at the time, assured the United States that it did not intend to go to war against Israel, and the Egyptian government cooperated with diplomatic moves to de-escalate the crisis. Israel, however, launched a surprise attack during which it defeated Egypt, Syria and Jordan, and seized all of Palestine, the Sinai peninsula and the Golan Heights.

Against this background, Israel's claim to have waged a war of defence cannot be taken seriously. On the contrary, it can plausibly be argued that the Israeli leadership, or at least a part of it, sought to engineer the crisis in order to seize the Palestinian Arab territory it had not taken in 1948, and more besides.

As soon as one realises that, far from being forced to engage in a "defensive" war, Israel had in fact provoked the 1967 hostilities, the argument about the inappropriateness of linkage collapses. The parallels are, in reality, very close indeed.

In both cases, Iraq's and Israel's, the U.N. Security Council passed resolutions calling upon the occupier to withdraw forthwith. As Mr. Lerner notes, the language of Resolutions 242 and 660 is by no means the same but the desired outcome most certainly is. One could argue, too, that the language is inconsistent because of the influence of the United States, a veto-holding permanent member of the Security Council and a country seemingly incapable of criticising its ally Israel in anything other than the most roundabout terms.

More glaring, alas, has been the discrepancy of reactions. In response to Kuwait's plight after the invasion of August 1990, the U.N. Security Council acted with unprecedented haste by, first, imposing sweeping sanctions against Iraq and, then, authorising the use of force. The occupation of Kuwait was ended within seven months. In the case of the areas occupied by Israel in 1967, in contrast, despite numerous Security Council resolutions, the occupier has refused to budge and the international community, for a variety of reasons — most notably the U.S. veto in the Security Council, together with its economic coercive power — has chosen to apply only moral pressure.

At the same time, it should be stressed that the situation persists not because of any acceptance of Israeli rights. On the contrary, Israeli behaviour has been generally condemned and, over the past 24 years, there have been a great many demands for the ending of the occupation and for a peaceful settlement to the dispute. What is lacking, unfortunately, unlike the case of Iraq and Kuwait, is political will, including a willingness to apply pressures of an economic or, if necessary, a military nature.

Mr. Lerner devotes a considerable portion of his article to a radical reinterpretation of Resolution 242. In order to refute his assertions, it is necessary to examine the wording of the resolution, adopted on Nov. 22, 1967, very carefully. It begins by emphasising "the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war." This, obviously, refers to Israel's seizure of Arab lands during the 1967 war. There is no provision for the manner in which the territory was acquired. Israel's claim to have fought a defensive war, therefore, even if such a claim had any validity, is irrelevant in the context of the resolution.

Next, Resolution 242 affirms that "the fulfilment of the principle

(Continued on page 5)

Read the law: Gaza is not Kuwait

By Harry V. Lerner

American Secretary of State James Baker is attempting to bring peace to the Middle East along the lines laid down by President George Bush in his March 6 address to the U.S. Congress. "The time has come," the president said, "to put an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict, an end that 'must be grounded, in U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 and 338 and the principle of territory for peace.' Peace between Arabs and Israelis is of course desirable; but some of President Bush's language suggests that he accepts President Saddam Hussein's view that the Israeli 'occupation' of the West Bank and Gaza is some-

how equivalent to the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. This parallelism is not only wrong as a matter of policy and morality — it is wrong as a matter of international law.

Under international law, an occupying power is a state that holds territory taken from its legitimate sovereign in an act of aggression. Occupation is by definition illegal, and an occupying power is obliged to withdraw. Iraq in Kuwait was an occupying power in the classic sense of the term. Israel in the West Bank and Gaza is not.

No condemnation

The Security Council adopted Resolution 242 after the 1967 Six Day War. (It adopted Resolution 338 after the October 1973 war;

Resolution 338 called on the parties to the conflict to begin negotiations immediately under Resolution 242, which it affirmed). Resolution 242 does not "condemn" Israel or refer to an Israeli "invasion." It does not "demand" that Israel "withdraw immediately and unconditionally." It never applies the term "occupying power" to Israel. All this language is present in Resolution 660, the resolution that called on Iraq to evacuate Kuwait.

The reason for these omissions is simple. The Security Council concluded in 1967 that Israel had not committed an armed attack or an invasion against its neighbours, but was in fact the victim of aggression by the Arab states. Until the Arab states comply with

the clause of Resolution 242 that expressed Israel's right to "live in peace within secure and recognised boundaries free from threats or acts of force," Israel's status in the West Bank and Gaza was held to be that of a lawful administrator, holding territories taken in a defensive war.

In fact, Israel had been engaged in a defensive war for nearly 20 years at that point. Although the 1949 armistice agreements between Israel and the Arab states that had attacked it in 1948 prohibited hostile or war-like acts by other parties, Israel nevertheless had no peace. Terrorist bands trained, armed and directed by Arab states raided her territories from across

(Continued on page 5)

The week in print

Arab unity, independent approach emphasised

THE developments in the Soviet Union and the returning Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates to the Kingdom were the dominant topics tackled by the local press in the past week.

The developments in Moscow have proved that the Arabs can rely on no one but themselves and should understand that the elements of success in the coming peace process lie with them and with their strong will, said Mahmoud Al Rimawi, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily.

The writer said that the Arabs should form an alliance to exercise pressure on their common enemy instead of relying on a foreign nation and should stop launching propaganda campaigns that can only harm their cause.

This view was backed by another columnist in Al Ra'i daily who said the Arabs could not trust but their intrinsic power irrespective of there being a balance of power in the world or not. Tariq Masarweh said that many Arabs were disappointed to see the coup fall in Moscow simply because they had hoped that the new regime would restore a balance of the world powers and rid the world of the continued hegemony of the U.S.-Zionist alliance.

Mr. Masarweh said that the Arabs and Third World countries were totally disappointed with Mr. Gorbachev who had stabbed them in the back, showed total submission to the United States and condoned the Western alliance's aggression on Iraq.

A columnist in Al Dustour justified the joy of the man in the street over the temporary disappearance of Mr. Gorbachev from the political scene by noting the fact that the Soviet leader had taken steps considered harmful to the Arabs and caused a socio-economic deterioration within the Soviet Union itself.

Mohammad Daoudieh said that reports coming out from the Soviet Union speak of hunger, corruption, crime and other social ills flourishing everywhere. The writer said that the Arabs had been hoping to see a halt to the Soviet-Jewish emigration to Palestine, that had been stepped up under Mr. Gorbachev who has left the arena to the United States to take any action and arrogantly despised the world international legitimacy.

Salameh Ekour, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab daily, described the coup against Mr. Gorbachev as a courageous move to rid the Soviet Union of a leadership that harmed Soviet interests at home and abroad. The army generals took their action because they

saw their country falling totally in the hands of the Americans and their Western allies, the writer said. He said that it was hoped that the Soviet Union would end the embargo on Iraq and resume its role as a friend of the liberation movements around the world.

Turning to the Middle East issue, the columnist said the Arab countries had given their consent to attend a peace conference in advance of any guarantees by the U.S. administration to force Israel to withdraw from the Arab lands occupied in the 1967 war.

Salameh Ekour said that Israel should not be allowed to keep the land and get the aspired peace as well without any benefits to the Arabs. Since the Arabs believe that their strength lies in their unity, at least they can now embark on a move to coordinate the stands of these countries in direct confrontation with the Israeli enemy, the writer said.

The Middle East peace process is bound to be further delayed by the Israeli government's latest decision to put on trial the three Palestinian leaders who held talks with the PLO representatives in London, said Munes Al Razzaz in Al Dustour. The writer said that Shamir government was making a mockery of the international legitimacy, trying with all its might and in the face of all pressures, to delay any peace conference that would guarantee the rights of the Palestinian people.

He said that Shamir and his government were trying at the same time to create a rift between the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza and their legitimate representatives.

Columnist Taber Al Udwan said that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker had succeeded in overcoming most of the obstacles impeding the convening of a peace conference but once the conference gets under way he was bound to confront the real problem of forcing Israel to implement U.N. Security Council resolutions.

The columnist, who writes for Al Dustour, said that the resolutions call for an Israeli pull out from Arab lands and tackle the refugee problem, which no one can elude. Neither Israel nor the United States can avoid serious handling of the essential issues that had plagued the Middle East for so long and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people if they are truly oriented to establish durable peace, the writer said.

This view is backed by Hamadeh Faraneh in Al Dustour, who said that the problem of the refugees could only be

solved by their returning to the land from which they had been uprooted. Hamadeh Faraneh said that Israel would be disillusioned if it believes that Jordan can substitute the Palestinians in the peace negotiations or can allow Arab rights to be ignored. He said that U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 should be implemented in letter and spirit so that the Palestinians and all the Arabs can be satisfied.

A columnist in Sawt Al Shaab daily warned the Arabs against going to the peace conference in October without first reaching a joint stand regarding their national rights.

Mazen Al Saket said that what is urgently required at the moment is a Jordanian-Palestinian joint stand on which the other Arab countries can build their position.

The writer said no peace should be achieved in the Camp David style and no Arab party should deal separately with the Israeli enemy if the Arabs are determined to regain their rights.

Turning to the plight of the Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates who have returned to Jordan after a long absence in Kuwait, Sultan Al Hattab, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily, said that the government and people of Jordan are bound to help the expatriates settle and should offer them facilities to do so.

He called on the government to stop the increases in the rents and to introduce a legislation that would allow tenants to offer refuge to the expatriates without any complaints from landlords.

The writer said that schools, mosques and other places should raise contributions to the needy expatriates, that rich families should rally to offer funds and youth clubs should be placed at the disposal of the expatriates.

A columnist in Sawt Al Shaab daily said that the Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates, who spent their lifetime building Kuwait and helping that emirate prosper, have the right to demand a share of the prosperity and do not deserve to be driven out from the country.

Arafat Hijazi said that thanks to the expatriates Kuwait is now enjoying vast wealth; he said that thanks to the Jordanian army, which offered help to Kuwait against Abdul Karim Qasem, Kuwait has been saved.

Dwelling on the same topic, Salameh Ekour in Sawt Al Shaab said that the expulsion of the Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates was a form of pressure exercised on Jordan by an Arab country exactly like the United

States' current siege imposed on Aqaba.

The writer said that by exercising pressure on Jordan, Kuwait is helping the United States maintain its own pressure on Amman which has been supporting the PLO as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and forcing Israel to deal directly with the Palestinian leadership.

This view was backed by Ahmad Al Dabbas in Sawt Al Shaab who said that the U.S.-led alliance was continuing the pressure on Jordan hoping that the Kingdom would change its national stand.

Jordan, he stressed, is the victim of a conspiracy concocted by the U.S.-led alliance and implemented by the Kuwaiti authorities. Such pressure, he said, was countered by His Majesty King Hussein's call on the Jordanian people to show solidarity with their expatriate brothers and to enhance the national unity which, the writer said, is the strongest tool in the face of the conspiracy.

A columnist in Al Dustour criticised the draft law on political parties describing it as falling short of meeting the aspirations of the majority of people.

Mazen Al Saket said that in its present form the draft law restricts the number of citizens wishing to be involved in political activity by defining the age of political party members and placing restrictions and imposing penalties.

Such behaviour is tantamount to showing that involvement in political parties is a dangerous practice that should be avoided by the Jordanian citizens, the writer said.

Another columnist criticised the actions of certain private schools with regard to dealing with teaching staff members.

Salah Abdul Samad, who writes in Al Ra'i, said that certain private schools tend to impose very humiliating terms and conditions on their teachers and sometimes resort to mass dismissals in order to achieve their objectives. He said that teachers in such schools are forced to sign contracts that can by no means safeguard their own interests.

The teachers are sometimes forced to accept difficult conditions and terms because, the writer said, schools' administrations have the right to terminate a teacher's services at any moment in view of the fact that many people are currently unemployed and accept any salaries given them under the present circumstances.

LETTERS

Charity starts at home

To the Editor:

Monitoring events of the fateful "60 hours in the USSR" and world reaction to the unconstitutional attempt to destroy the obviously popular reform democratic movement left me dismayed with the unprincipled attitude of many of our press commentators, daily columnists, intellectuals, members of Parliament and other leaders of public opinion.

While they are on daily record calling for democratisation at home, human rights for Palestinians in Kuwait and occupied Palestine, and food for the children of Iraq, they turn a blind eye to the aspirations of the people of the Soviet Union for freedom and democracy and let their personal dislike of Mr. Gorbachev cloud their supposedly crystal clear analytical minds.

It seems to me that we practice double standards while we are famous in accusing others of committing them.

Dr. Ghazi Shubailat,
P.O. Box 5190,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name, and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unsolicited manuscripts.

Mythmaking: An exercise in Israeli propaganda

(Continued from page 4)

Council member states that the time clearly underlines this truth. Finally, Resolution 242 affirms the necessity for guaranteeing the territorial integrity and political independence of every state in the area, through measures including the establishment of demilitarized zones. This, again, should be agreeable to Israel unless, as one fears, this particular state has other long-term plans.

Mr. Lerner, in his article, claims that the normal laws of occupation do not apply in the case of Israel and the Palestinian territories. This is false. Whatever the origins of an occupation, the rules for administering it remain the same. These are laid down in the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Times of War, to which Israel is a party.

Israel has argued that these regulations do not apply on the grounds, first, that the 1967 war was a defensive one which, as we have seen, is a much disputed version of events (and, in any case, irrelevant: the Geneva Conventions are binding upon all signatories and contain absolutely no provision permitting a signatory which deems itself to be acting in self-defence to disregard the regulations they set forth).

Second, Israel claims that the occupation is somehow different because the territories it occupied in 1967 (the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem) although certainly not the Golan Heights or Sinai) were not at the time "sovereign." This claim, whatever its validity — and the situation is by no means clearcut — is quite irrelevant. Any country administering territory occupied during the course of a war is obliged to observe international laws relating to belligerent occupation pending a peaceful settlement.

Mr. Lerner's bizarre attempt to differentiate between Israel's occupation of Palestinian territory and a country occupying, i.e. being located upon a coastal plain or a person occupying a chair is fatuous and, worse, demonstrates a serious lack of understanding of, or contempt for, international law as well as his readers' intelligence.

Equally obscure are his concluding remarks which strive to justify Israel's behaviour towards the Palestinians. He attempts to draw a parallel between the position of the loyalists who fled from their homes during the American Revolutionary War, and lost everything, and the Palestinian refugees who, Mr. Lerner apparently believes, should lose everything. While it is certainly true that the loyalists who fled from the thirteen colonies were neither allowed to return to their lands, nor to receive compensation, one should bear in mind that these events took place over two hundred years ago. Humanity, since then, has aspired to raise its standards of conduct, through international conventions on human rights and the conduct of war and through bodies such as the United Nations.

Mr. Lerner states that the loyalists did not return or receive compensation "notwithstanding the Treaty of Paris." Since that treaty did not provide for the right to return or to receive compensation, this is hardly surprising.

The U.N., on the other hand,

has repeatedly affirmed the right of the Palestinian refugees to return or to receive compensation, and most Palestinians would argue strongly that provision must be made for this in any peace settlement.

There now exists a considerable body of international law which defines and regulates global interactions, although no one would claim that this instrument has yet been perfected. Israel is a signatory to many of the treaties in question, including the Fourth Geneva Convention, and it is, therefore, inexcusable for it to adopt such a high-handed attitude towards the territories it occupies and the Palestinians who inhabit these territories.

Finally, Mr. Lerner undermines any remaining vestiges of seriousness by his dismissive discussion of the "Arab refugees." Although, he states, "thousands of Jewish refugees from Arab lands have been resettled in Israel... Arab refugees from Palestine... have generally not been resettled." The Arab states, in his words, are "punishing their citizenship by denying them citizenship in their host countries." Such crude restructuring of reality must surely give one pause for thought.

The problem of Jewish refugees from the Arab World arose following the creation of the Palestinian refugee problem and as a tragic by-product of the turmoil resulting from the conflict in Palestine in 1948. Israel wanted those Jews to be "ingathered" and, indeed, was not above helping the process along in Iraq and Egypt. The Palestinians, on the whole, do not wish to settle in other Arab countries, although many of them have been forced to do so, because they

prefer to return to their own country, Palestine.

The article by Harry V. Lerner is, sadly, all too typical of the mythmaking employed by Israel and its apologists in their attempts to invert reality. These fictions are occasionally convincing but, more often, as in this article, they are quite lacking in respect for the facts or appreciation of international or moral laws. They tend to reflect the increasingly narrow-minded, annexationist, extreme Zionist views dominant in contemporary Israel.

What is lacking in accuracy, however, is more than made up for in repetition. It is as if, by the sheer monotonous parroting of such lies and distortions, Israel and its supporters hope to create an alternative model of reality and, in this, they have not been altogether unsuccessful. They have, after all, vast resources. Thus, the myth of "poor little Israel," the victim of terrorist Arab aggression, persists, despite persuasive proof to the contrary.

Articles such as Mr. Lerner's help bolster this myth and broaden it, thus generating boundless indulgence towards the distasteful and illegal actions of the Israeli government. Nonetheless, by looking closely at statements of this nature, as we have done with Mr. Lerner's article, one can usually expose without too much difficulty the distortions, inaccuracies and myths they contain. It is, moreover, vitally necessary to do this in order to prevent further negative shifts in the terms in which the Palestine conflict is discussed and, consequently, the terms in which the international community believes a peace settlement should be reached.

Bush sees improved prospects

(Continued from page 1)

Yedioth Ahronot Friday. However, Mr. Shamir said Arabs still had problems to resolve before peace talks and repeated the Israeli demand for restoration of full Soviet-Israeli relations before any peace conference.

"It is difficult for me to determine if the original timetable for the conference in October will be realized," Mr. Shamir said.

Defence Minister Moshe Arens told reporters Thursday Israel "was happy" that Mr. Gorbachev had returned to his legitimate role in the Soviet Union, calling the day "a holiday for the Soviet Union" and "for all free and democratic people throughout the world."

Mr. Arens said he expected that after the Soviet government "sets their house in order" it would "follow its declared policy of establishing diplomatic relations with Israel and participating in the Middle East peace process."

Mr. Arens said with Mr. Gorbachev back in power "there is no reason that the political process, which the Soviet Union is participating in, will be delayed."

Foreign Minister David Levy also praised the Soviet Union for proving "democratic values and those of freedom are very strong" and expressed optimism that Soviet-Israeli dialogue would be renewed.

Israel Television reported that the Soviet delegation in Israel had expressed disappointment in Prime Minister Shamir's failure to make any official statement in the first three days of the crisis.

But Israel Radio said the Soviet delegation denied the report, saying the opposite was true and that the Soviet Union appreciated Mr. Shamir's behaviour throughout the crisis and his statement welcoming the collapse of the Soviet coup.

The Soviet delegation and the foreign ministry could not be reached for comment.

Jerusalem's Israeli mayor, Teddy Kolek, in an interview published Friday, criticised the Israeli government's exclusion of Jerusalem Palestinians from peace talks.

"I wouldn't oppose it... In this matter there is too much preoccupation with technicalities instead of substance and content. It's so unimportant," the daily Yedioth Ahronot quoted Mr. Kolek as saying.

Mr. Shamir opposes the inclusion of Jerusalem Palestinians in the Palestinian delegation to the peace conference.

"It's not worth creating crisis about this and destroying our credit in the world, especially with the U.S. administration," Mr. Kolek was quoted as saying.

"The unity of the city depends on the question of whether we can show the world that we (Jews and Arabs) can live together," he said.

Gaza is not Kuwait

(Continued from page 4)

the armistice lines. Syria shelled Israeli villages from the Golan Heights.

Then, in May 1967, Egypt asked the U.N. to remove its peacekeeping forces from the Egyptian-Israeli armistice line (which they had patrolled since 1957). The U.N. complied. Egypt poured troops into the Sinai, and imposed a blockade upon shipment to and from Israel. These were, under international law, acts of war. Israel response, the Six Day War, was understood by the Security Council to be a defensive action in a war begun by others.

The only possible basis for concluding that Israel is an occupying power in the conquered West Bank and Gaza is by leaning on the fact that Resolution 242, without characterising Israel as an occupying power, refers to those territories as being "occupied." But it's generally accepted that the term means something different when applied to the West Bank and Gaza than it did when applied to Kuwait. When an atlas says that a country occupied the coastal plain, or when you occupy a chair, the term does not have the same political meaning as it does in international law. The only proper meaning for

"occupied" as used in 242, consistent with the history and context in which it is used, is "possessed," or "taken into possession."

That's certainly the meaning America's then-Secretary of State William P. Rogers gave to the resolution. In a speech given on Dec. 9, 1969, he made clear that Israel was not an aggressive, conquering or "occupying" power. He said:

"The boundaries from which the 1967 war began where established in the 1949 armistice agreements... those boundaries were armistice lines, not final political borders... the Security Council Resolution 242 neither endorses nor precludes these armistice lines as the definitive political boundaries."

Secretary Rogers' interpretation of Resolution 242 was the same as Israel's: the 1949 armistice lines are not Israel's political boundaries. Until her political boundaries are established and agreed upon by the parties in conformity to the second clause of Resolution 242, Israel is entitled to stay in the land taken in 1967.

The late Arthur J. Goldberg, U.S. ambassador to the U.N. when Resolution 242 was adopted, corroborates Secretary

Rogers' understanding. In a letter of June 26, 1980, on whether 242 requires Israeli withdrawal from "all of the territories occupied in the West Bank and Gaza Strip during the 1967 war," Ambassador Goldberg wrote:

"The notable omissions (from the resolution) are the words 'the' and 'all.' The significance of these omissions is vital to a proper understanding of Resolution 242."

"The resolution, in essence, neither commands nor prohibits total Israeli withdrawal. Rather, it remits the extent and timing of any withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza Strip to the parties to the conflict to negotiate."

Like Secretary Rogers, Ambassador Goldberg believed that "territory for peace" is not a principle under 242, as stated by President Bush. It is an option available to Israel.

Nor is this just the opinion of U.S. officials. The Egyptian government adopted this view, too, when it agreed to the Camp David accords on Sept. 21, 1978. They are based on Resolution 242. Significantly, the accords do not use the terms "occupying," "occupied territory," or "occupied" nor do they contain any of the criteria of an occupying power. The parties agreed in the accords to the election of a self-governing authority for the inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza (but not Jerusalem). Rules

for the election would be set by Israel, Egypt and Jordan plus "Palestinians (the Hebrew text says 'Palestinian Arabs')."

The terms of the Camp David accords are fundamentally inconsistent with the concept of Israel being the occupying power. They are wholly consistent with Israel's status as the administrative authority in lawful possession of the territories. And in the accords, Israel is in possession of the West Bank and Gaza as a matter of right, not as an occupying power.

Mr. Baker's policy, and Mr. Bush's March 6 speech, have called for a recognition of "legitimate Palestinian political rights." This may or may not be sound policy, but it is certainly a departure from Resolution 242 and the Camp David accords.

Resolution 242 states that the Security Council "affirms the necessity... for achieving a just settlement of the refugee problem." That language refers to Jewish refugees as well as Arabs. By now, the thousands of Jewish refugees from Arab lands have been resettled in Israel. Arab refugees from Palestine, however, have generally not been resettled. Arab states admit Arab refugees and employ many of them but do not grant them citizenship. Kuwait sued to contain more than 400,000 such refugees, many of whom had lived and worked there for a genera-

tion, but who were not permitted to acquire Kuwaiti citizenship.

Arab brethren

The time has come for the Arab states to admit that they lost the war in 1948 and in 1967, and to stop punishing their Arab brethren by denying them citizenship in their host countries. In the Revolutionary War, loyalists to the British crown fled the 13 colonies and lost their homes and livelihood. Notwithstanding the Treaty of Paris, which ended the war with Britain, they did not return and did not receive compensation for their losses.

According to the original understanding of Resolution 242, Israel has no obligation to withdraw from any of the territories taken in 1967 unless a peace treaty with an Arab state creates a secure and recognised boundary that calls for withdrawal thereto, as the treaty with Egypt did. And Israel remains at liberty to negotiate peace treaties that do not call for withdrawal. According to the Arab states, and — it seems — according to President Bush, Israel is an occupying power in the West Bank and Gaza, and is obliged to withdraw to the 1949 armistice lines. The view shared by the president and by the Arab states may or may not be advantageous to U.S. foreign policy interests. It is certainly bad history, and bad international law.

Gorbachev, Yeltsin start Soviet clean-up

(Continued from page 1)

ers. The order does not apply to Russia's autonomous republics, which apparently are allowed to make their own decisions on the subject.

— Mr. Yeltsin also nationalised the Novosti news agency. He ordered the heads of the TASS and Novosti news agencies fired for misinforming the public during the coup attempt. However, the two organisations are not subordinate to Mr. Yeltsin.

— TASS banned its party organisation, in compliance with Mr. Yeltsin's earlier decree barring any political activity inside workplaces.

— In Georgia, anti-communist protesters picketed the party's headquarters in Tbilisi. The round table coalition led by Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia called for prohibition of the party and nationalisation of its property.

— Moldavian president Mircea Snegur ordered the removal of party organisations from government agencies, TASS reported.

— In Lithuania, police occupied the party headquarters. Lithuanian party leaders fled the building in four armoured vehicles and took refuge in an army base, the state news agency said.

Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis demanded that the commander of the Vilnius military garrison turn over the party leaders so they can be arrested for supporting the failed coup.

Mr. Yeltsin told the Russian parliament that he already had signed a decree turning over Communist Party property to the Russian people. Mr. Gorbachev then confirmed that all decrees signed by Mr. Yeltsin during the coup had the power of law.

"The decree is hereby signed," said Mr. Gorbachev, referring to his order legalising Mr. Yeltsin's actions during the coup.

The deputies applauded. In another clear sign of his new power, Mr. Yeltsin interrupted Mr. Gorbachev from his seat

across the podium at the Russian Parliament, dubbed the White House.

He insisted Mr. Gorbachev read out a report on a cabinet meeting Monday, when the coup had apparently succeeded, to show their guilt.

"I have not read it yet," Mr. Gorbachev protested.

"Well read it now," insisted Mr. Yeltsin, before the parliament and tens of millions of television viewers.

Mr. Yeltsin was loudly applauded when Mr. Gorbachev thanked him for his part in thwarting the coup but the reception for the Soviet leader was far less favourable. Hostile deputies heckled him and others sat stony-faced as he spoke.

Mr. Yeltsin appeared Friday to be acting at least as an equal with Mr. Gorbachev, and the two clearly agreed on replacing old-guard officials with reformers.

Mr. Gorbachev later said the two leaders had reached an agreement that permits each man to assume the other's duties in an emergency, such as another coup attempt.

24 hours that shook Soviet Union

(Continued from page 1)

had seized in a campaign of intimidation. Around dusk, they pulled out of the Lithuanian broadcasting centre in Vilnius, site of a bloody assault in January that left 14 people dead.

The military and security organs — the Defence Ministry, the Interior Ministry and the KGB — were the biggest losers.

By Thursday morning, Defence Minister Dmitry Yazov and KGB chief Vladimir Kryuchkov were under arrest, and police were headed to the home of Interior Minister Pugo. But Mr. Pugo shot himself instead.

Mr. Gorbachev's six years of reform have eased Soviets' fears of the security services. But the role their leaders played in organising the coup deeply discredited them, and the last vestiges of fear among Muscovites appeared to melt away.

The removal of the Dzerzhinsky statue symbolised this.

"All of our lives the KGB was stronger than the people," said Irina Kalina. The secret police shot her father in 1938 and sent her into exile in 1949-1953.

Watching the Dzerzhinsky statue come down, she said: "This is the first time in 70 years that the people are stronger."

G-7 to discuss Soviet events

(Continued from page 1)

world's most prosperous countries to promise Mr. Gorbachev enough money played a part in undermining him.

Mr. Kimmock warned the Soviet Union would become more unstable if the West failed to provide more support.

But Mr. Major denied that the G-7's rejection of Mr. Gorbachev's request for \$7.3 billion had helped precipitate the coup.

U.S. President George Bush also has opposed large-scale handouts to the Soviets until they make tangible progress towards a market economy.

"Unless the system is changed, our money would be like a drop of water on a hot stove," said Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek of the Netherlands, current president of the European Community.

Michel Vauzelle, chairman of the French National Assembly's foreign affairs committee, who just returned from trip to Moscow as an envoy of French President Francois Mitterrand, said that watching Mr. Gorbachev and Mr. Yeltsin was like watching "two different planets who were going to join and work together, and that won't be easy."

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Morceli tells Aouita his time is up

TOKYO (Agencies) — Brash young Algerian Noureddine Morceli has news for Said Aouita: "You've had your day, now it's my turn."

"It's my year," the 21-year-old said confidently Friday, the eve of the World Athletics Championships where he expects to take on the Moroccan in the 1,500 metres final on Sept. 1.

Aouita, world record holder in both the 1,500 and 5,000 metres, may have been the middle-distance king of the 1980's but, according to Morceli, his time is over.

The Algerian has already claimed the world indoor 1,500 metres record and title this year and has also moved dangerously close to Aouita's world outdoor record of three minutes 29.46 seconds, clocking 3:31.00 twice.

As the soft-spoken Morceli tells it, there is no one at the World Championships who can touch him.

"I have a strong kick and if the race is fast or slow, I can win," he said, disregarding the strategies of his opponents. "I have the confidence in the 1,500, especially, after last year when I ran 3:32."

Morceli originally entered three events at the world championships, being named in the 800 and 5,000 metres as well, but he made it clear his priority is the 1,500 metres.

When he reaches 27 or 28 he may want to chase Aouita's world record in the 5,000 metres but, for the moment, Morceli said the record he wants most is in the shorter distance.

Aouita, recovering from surgery on his calves last year, chased Morceli at Monaco earlier this month but could not defeat the graceful Algerian who has been the world's fastest over 1,500 metres for the past two years.

Morceli clocked 3:32.04 and Aouita 3:33.28.

The outcome may well be the same in Tokyo.

Meanwhile the third World Athletics Championships begin Saturday tinged with political overtones.

The Soviet team, having left home in the midst of an aborted coup, is here.

The South African team, eventually hoping to regain a place on the international sports stage, is missing.

The South Africans are about the only country absent in these championships, which have attracted 1,705 athletes from a record 168 countries, more na-

tions than competed in the 1988 Olympics.

The major addition from the Seoul games is Cuba which recently completed an emotional domination of the Pan American Games at Havana.

With one of the sport's stronger teams, the Cubans are here en masse, led by Javier Sotomayor, the world record-holder in the men's high jump, and Ana Quirot, the favourite in the women's 800 metres.

Sergei Bubka, the only 20-foot pole vaulter in history — he has cleared that magic barrier both indoors and outdoors this year — heads the psychologically scarred, 100-member Soviet delegation.

Bubka and three others arrived in Tokyo only two days after the attempted overthrow of President Mikhail Gorbachev. The remainder of the team came a day later when the coup was unraveling.

"I had no trouble getting out of Moscow," Bubka said. "But I saw some 70 tanks moving through the city and I was shocked. I started thinking of my family. I was concerned for their safety and I wondered why I was leaving them to come to Tokyo. It was sad, and tense."

Meanwhile, the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) organisers of the championships, had hoped to secure the South Africans for their first international meet in 16 years.

Earlier this year, the IAAF, the world governing body for the sport which had suspended South Africa in 1979 because of the country's apartheid policies, issued temporary membership to that nation.

But this week, following strong opposition from South African athletics authorities who claimed that the country had not yet overcome its stand against racial separation, the IAAF voted to drop the nation's membership.

Thus, the frustrated South African athletes, some of whom are world-class, including Zola Pieterse — nee Budd — probably will have to wait until the 1992 Olympics before returning to the international scene.

Meanwhile, the championships — a major showcase for the world's other top athletes — will go on through Sept. 1 in 60,000-seat national stadium, the site of the 1964 Olympics. There will be 43 finals, 24 for men, 19 for women.

Three of the finals will be held Saturday — the men's 20-kilometre walk and the women's 10-kilometre walk and shot put.

Senna takes provisional pole in Belgian GP

SPA-FRANCORCHAPS, Belgium (AP) — World Champion Ayrton Senna lowered the Belgian Grand Prix qualifying record time by more than a second Friday, earning the provisional pole for Sunday's Formula One race.

Senna completed his best lap on the 6.940-kilometre circuit cut through the wooded, hilly Ardennes in one minute, 49.100 seconds, 0.385 seconds ahead of McLaren-Honda teammate Gerhard Berger and 1.265 seconds faster than the record he set last year.

Briton Nigel Mansell, second behind Senna in the season point

standings, took the third spot on the grid in the first of two qualifying sessions, completing his best lap in his Williams-Renault in 1:50.365.

Behind Mansell were the Ferraris of Alain Prost and Jean Alesi, who shared the third row on the provision grid with Mansell's teammate, Riccardo Patrese.

Senna won the pole two weeks ago in the Hungarian Grand Prix and led from start to finish to increase his lead in the season standings. The victory gave him 61 points, 12 ahead of Mansell and 29 ahead of Patrese.

There also will be qualifying and preliminaries in several other events, most notably the men's 100-metre dash, featuring world record-holder Leroy Burrell and former world record-holder Carl Lewis, both of the United States.

Lewis will be one of four athletes in the championships seeking a third straight gold medal in an individual event.

Lewis can cash in his chips in two events — the 100 metres or the long jump. He won the 100 in 1983 at Helsinki and was declared the winner of the 1987 championships at Rome when Canadian Ben Johnson was stripped of his gold medal after admitting that he took performance-enhancing drugs following his first-place finish at the 1988 Olympics.

In the 100, however, Lewis will have to contend with his Santa Monica Club teammate, Burrell. Burrell snatched the world record from Lewis with a time of 9.90 seconds at the U.S. championships June 14 in New York and is undefeated in eight 100-metre races this year.

The irrepressible Lewis also won the long jump and ran on the winning United States 400-metre relay team at the 1983 and 1987 championships.

Another American, Greg Foster, also is a two-time defending champion, in the men's 110-metre high hurdles, and is favoured to win again. He has the year's fastest time, 13.06, among the hurdles entries in the championships.

Bubka, also seeking his third straight world title, is a prohibitive favourite. And like Foster, he will be trying to complete a world indoor-outdoor sweep this year. Bubka and Foster won their indoor titles at Seville, Spain, in March.

The other two-time world outdoor champion, women's discus thrower Martina Hellmann of Germany, is not likely to repeat. She ranks only sixth on this year's world list.

Bubka, Burrell and Sotomayor are among an impressive group of world record-holders in the meet.

The other men are distance runners Aouita, Steve Cram of Britain and Arturo Barrios of Mexico, discus thrower Jurgen Schult of Germany, hammer thrower Yuri Sedykh of the Soviet Union and javelin thrower Seppo Rautavaara of Finland.

The women include distance runner Ingrid Kristiansen of Norway, high jumper Stefka Kostadinova of Bulgaria, shot putter Natalya Lisovskaya of the Soviet Union, discus thrower Gabriele Reinsch of Germany, javelin thrower Petra Felke Meier of Germany, and heptathlete Jackie Joyner-Kersey of the United States.

Opening ceremonies were held Friday night, with Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko in attendance.

Jordanian men win, women lose in handball games against Iraqis

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordanian men's national handball team beat its Iraqi counterpart 25-20 in an exciting game played Thursday at Al Hussein Youth City in Amman.

Earlier Thursday, the Jordanian women's national handball team suffered a crushing defeat at the hands of the visiting Iraqi national team in the first of a series of matches scheduled in Jordan.

The game ended with the Iraqis winning 20-9. The Iraqi men's and women's national handball teams arrived in Amman Tuesday upon the invitation of the Jordanian Handball Federation (JHF) to play a series of matches against their Jordanian counterparts.

The Jordanian men's team had a surprise in store for their

guests as Mouaffaq Fathalla, Maher Malhas and their teammates played a fast and attacking game to win the first half 12-8.

Jordanian goalkeeper Nael Ghazi stood up to continued attacks from Sahib Kamal and Balaegh Mithkal, as the Jordanian team won the match.

Although the Jordanian women's team scored the first goal of the match in the fifth minute, the Iraqis attacked repeatedly thanks to their teamwork and better fitness.

The Jordanian women's team lost many scoring chances including three penalties in the first half which ended 9-3 in favour of the Iraqi team.

In the second half the Jordanian team tried to catch up with the Iraqi team and goalkeeper Jamileh Jadalat tried her best to prevent more Iraqi goals, especially with the repeated attacks of Iraq's Sanaa Ahmad who scored ten goals for her team.

Jordanian women's national team coach Mohammad Khalifeh told the Jordan Times: "Such games with other national teams help us evaluate our progress and further improve our game."

Our national teams played against their Syrian counterparts in Syria and in Amman in the past two weeks. Even though Jordan lost these matches, "our performance improved from one game to the other," Khalifeh said. "With such continued competition and a lot more preparation and practice we hope to do much better."

The Iraqi national teams will play in Irbid at Al Hassan Sports City, Saturday. The final matches will be held in Amman, Monday at Al Hussein Youth City.

Edberg, Connors advance in New York

COMMACK, New York (AP) — Defending champion Stefan Edberg of Sweden, ranked No. 2 in world tennis, whipped countryman Peter Lundgren 6-3, 6-3 to reach the quarterfinals of the OTB International Tennis Tournament.

The hard-serving German recorded eight aces and 10 service winners as he needed just 48 minutes to beat Carbonell.

"I feel I played much better today than yesterday," said Stich, who survived a tense, first-set tiebreaker Wednesday before defeating Australian Mark Woodforde.

"Obviously, I'm trying to peak for the U.S. Open. This is just one step," Carbonell said Stich is still on a high coming off his Wimbledon triumph.

"He is a cut above the rest of us right now," Carbonell said. "He has so much more confidence." Stich will face seventh-seeded Australian Todd Woodbridge in Friday's quarterfinals.

Woodbridge outlasted 1990 French Open champion Andre Gomez of Ecuador 6-7, 6-1, 7-5 in the best match of the day.

Gomez appeared to have broken Woodbridge in the 11th game of the third set for 6-5 but had a ball overruled by chair umpire Dana Locanto that appeared to have hit the line.

"I don't want to take anything away from Woodbridge, but I thought I was robbed," said Gomez, who threw his racket in disgust after the call. "There had been mistakes being made all day on line calls and he chose to overrule the only one on break point."

In women's play, number two seed Julie Halard of France was upset by Nicole Provis of Australia 5-7, 6-2, 6-2.

Top seed Anke Huber of Germany advanced in straight sets over American teenager Lindsay Davenport 6-1, 7-5.

Stich storms to victory at OTB International

SCHENECTADY, New York (R) — Wimbledon champion Michael Stich overwhelmed Tomas Carbonell of Spain 6-1, 6-2 to reach the quarterfinals of the OTB International Tennis Tournament.

The hard-serving German recorded eight aces and 10 service winners as he needed just 48 minutes to beat Carbonell.

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HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY AUGUST 24, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Extend your present influence beyond its present bounds as you are able to meet important persons who are both conventional and conservative as well as some very productive folks who are way out.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) This is your day to find the good means by which to gain the good will of those experts who look at everything from a very objective stance.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Think out a course of action that can bring you closer to an understanding with those allies whom you regard either as partners or opponents.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You have lots of assignments to do and even though you feel going off to some new condition helps things, you are best advised to follow through with what you've started.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Now you have a good chance to get in touch with a usual ally who wants conditions to be better and who will assist you in any decisions.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Your money matters seem to be in an odd condition and require that you do handle them with more care and caution if you are to have the success you want.

VERGO: (August 22 to September 22) This is a day when you are apt to be entirely too personal and to

feel you are being put on where it means the most to you but don't feel abused.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You can find little reason now for yielding to that desire to get out from under what you have agreed to do so give your loans for more character in finishing your project.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Now you are the one who sees clearly how to get along better with some friends who have acted in a peculiar manner in the past so keep alert.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Your interest in better understanding whatever your vocation is can be enhanced by listening to what one of worldly savvy has to recommend.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You have so many new ideas you hardly know which to accept and use but if you study them during the day and consult a close friend you will get the answer.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Whatever you wish to do that requires delving into the why's and wherefores of expenses and income is excellent for truth is available to you.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Make yourself listen to the advice given you by partners who have very personal axes to grind and you get a clue into what they are really trying to secretly do.

Birthday present! Birth Stone

World Resources, Dagan & Co. Inc. Jewellers, Gems Amman: Rio De Janeiro Amman: Amra Hotel Bm circle

THE BETTER HALF By Barnes



"I got a ticket for running a red light — atop a police patrol car."

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RECSS

KLANE

GANBIK

BROMEY

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: ○○○○○○○○

Saturday's Jumbles: GUILD MESSY DUPLEX GOBLT

Answer: "What the bonds of marriage sometimes are— 'GUILT-EDGED'"

(Answers tomorrow)

THE Daily Crossword by Fred Toole

ACROSS

1 After-dinner item

5 Spouse

9 Home

13 Suite

14 Mid oast

15 Future star

16 Examine closely

17 Sea eagles

18 Medieval helmet

19 Part of a "preparation"

22 Method

23 Walk heavily, as through mud

24 Gun or motor

26 Thought

31 Hindu religious teacher

35 Bones

38 Fit for the task

39 Kiddle's story

42 College official

43 Brainchild

44 Hindu sacred writings

45 Rarely

47 Honey maker

49 Abhorrent

52 Russ. workers' groups

57 Nine

62 Line of India

63 Leave out

64 Alg. port

65 Wide awake

66 Stout wit

68 Diana of song

69 Br. gun

70 Art deco painter

DOWN

1 Schooner

2 Reesties

3 Approaches

4 Principle

5 "— in St. Louis"

6 Field: prof.

7 Sharp tastes

8 Ford's folly

Financial Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE	10:10 CLOSE
U.S. Dollar	1.6890	1.6786
Deutsche Mark	1.7408	1.7508
Swiss Franc	1.5140	1.5215
French Franc	5.9155	5.9445
Japanese Yen	136.50	136.78
European Currency Unit	1.1806	1.1735

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.56	5.56	5.68	5.93
Deutsche Mark	10.81	10.68	10.43	10.20
Swiss Franc	9.00	9.12	9.25	9.37
French Franc	7.91	7.87	7.87	7.81
Japanese Yen	9.16	9.25	9.50	9.50
European Currency Unit	7.34	7.21	6.93	6.68

Currency	USD/Gr	JD/Gr	Metal	USD/Gr	JD/Gr
Gold	557.25	6.90	Silver	5.96	0.44

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.690	0.692
Deutsche Mark	1.1624	1.1682
Swiss Franc	0.3960	0.3980
French Franc	0.4533	0.4566
Japanese Yen	0.1165	0.1171
Dutch Guilder	0.3514	0.3532
Swedish Krona	0.1090	0.1090
Italian Lira	0.0529	0.0532
Belgian Franc	0.01912	0.01922

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7850	1.7900
Lebanese Lira	0.0770	0.0780
Saudi Riyal	0.1835	0.1842
Kuwaiti Dinar	0.1865	0.1880
Qatari Riyal	0.2100	0.2300
Egyptian Pound	1.7450	1.7900
Omani Riyal	0.1865	0.1880
UAE Dirham	0.3400	0.3500
Greek Drachma	1.4200	1.4500
Cypriot Pound	1.4200	1.4500

CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	20/8/91	Close	21/8/91	Close
All-Share	107.56		107.17	
Banking Sector	100.78		100.32	
Insurance Sector	117.99		117.85	
Industry Sector	114.68		114.32	
Services Sector	126.66		126.78	

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.6845/55	U.S. dollar	1.1435/40
One U.S. dollar	1.7370/80	Canadian dollar	1.9565/75
	1.5198/5208	Deutsche marks	35.74/78
	5.9000/50	Dutch guilders	1297/1298
	136.65/75	Swiss francs	6.780/20
	6.3060/10	Belgian francs	6.7050/100
	6.780/20	French francs	353.10/353.60
	6.7050/100	Italian lire	
		Japanese yen	
		Swedish crowns	
		Norwegian crowns	
		Danish crowns	
		U.S. dollars	

One ounce of gold

Experts say Gorbachev has opportunity to accelerate reform, attract Western aid

LONDON (AP) — Mikhail Gorbachev has an opportunity to move rapidly to accelerate economic reform and attract Western aid, but his government needs to agree on an economic plan and remain committed to it, experts said Thursday.

The view from the West is that quick, definite steps are required: introducing free prices, privatising state-owned industries and making the rouble convertible into foreign currencies.

"They've had dozens of plans in the past. The problem is that nobody has taken the plans seriously. They've been squabbling about it and they've fallen out," said Michael Hall, executive director of the British Soviet Chamber of Commerce.

"They have to look at the alternatives, agree on a plan for rapid movement and stick to it," he pointed out.

The hardliners' failure to oust Mr. Gorbachev effectively got rid of the obstacles to sweeping reform, and the crowds were on the side of perestroika, they said.

Keith Skeoch, chief economist with the London investment firm James Capel and Co., said: "You now have a pretty good chance that people will take the pain of reform. They recognise they have to go through this to get to the other side."

A gradual approach prolongs the pain and dilutes the improvements, Mr. Skeoch said.

A "big bang" approach, as adopted by Poland and East Germany, however, is fraught with the danger of high unemployment and civil unrest and a return to a centrally planned economy, Mr. Skeoch said.

"Because of the poor state of the economic infrastructure and the

inefficiencies within the system, you initially get a recession. It gets a lot worse before it gets better," Skeoch said.

The Soviet Union is a rich country with massive natural resources and a potentially lucrative market of 280 million people. But its economic output is falling. Inflation is rising. Food can't get from the fields to the store shelves.

David Price, a London-based Soviet expert with the accounting firm Ernst and Young, advocated that the Soviet Union adopt a 500-day plan worked out by Grigory Yavlinsky, a young Soviet economist.

This so-called "grand bargain," which Mr. Yavlinsky developed a year ago and revised this year with Harvard University experts, hasn't been endorsed by Mr. Gorbachev.

The plan would link Western aid to Soviet reform, a notion which some Western nations reject.

Boris Fyodorov, a former finance minister of the Russian Federation who now works for the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, supports a link between aid and "concrete economic reform."

"The economic system doesn't exist which can process these billions of dollars," Mr. Fyodorov said.

Mr. Yavlinsky's plan calls for a phased transformation: It would stabilise the economy with a tight grip on monetary and fiscal policy, privatise industries and make the rouble convertible.

What is crucial is reducing the Soviet Union's massive military spending and redirecting resources to the consumer economy, said Paul Whitman, president of the British computer company ICL International, which operates in the Soviet Union.

To help make the rouble convertible, the Soviet Union must begin producing goods that the West will want to buy, Mr. Price said.

He also said the Soviet republics should act to encourage a quick transition, along the lines of two laws passed by the Russian Federation last month.

One is a foreign investment law which allows investors to own up to 100 per cent of a venture. The other is a privatisation law which sets out which state enterprises will be sold and allows participation by Western investors, Mr. Price said.

Mr. Whitman suggested that the Soviet Union also could foster development by introducing import barriers, thus encouraging Western companies to manufacture within the country.

The Soviet Union should be helped to upgrade its technology for extracting its oil and other natural resources, to improve its distribution network, and to modernise manufacturing machinery, Mr. Price said.

Aid also should be directed to Western investors who are having trouble lining up bank finance, Mr. Price said.

In another comment a senior U.N. economist said Thursday the coup against Mr. Gorbachev had been bound to fail but added that the reinstated president remained confronted with a formidable array of economic problems.

The Soviet Union's economic crisis is likely to deepen for at least another year or two amid growing hardship for the population, Aleksandar Vacic, chief analyst at the U.N. Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) said in an interview. The ECE monitors developments in Eastern and Western economies.

Mr. Vacic said the collapse of the coup freed Mr. Gorbachev of the need to compromise with orthodox elements in the Soviet hierarchy and made it easier for him to push through reforms.

Amman Financial Market weekly trading

Following is a summary of trading during last week and the previous week:	Aug. 17-21	Aug. 10-14
Daily average	JD 643,308	JD 622,578
Total volume	JD 3,216,539	JD 2,491,510
total shares	1,865,678	1,486,610
No. Of contracts	2,694	2,071

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — Profit-taking set in when the Soviet turnaround failed to bring the market back to pre-coup levels. Investors returned to the sidelines. The Nikkei average fell 450.43 points to 22,065.34.

SYDNEY — The All Ordinaries Index, tracking Tokyo, lost 11.2 points to 1,540.8.

FRANKFURT — The market settled back to a quiet session after a rollercoaster week. Early losses on profit-taking were quickly reversed. The Dax index ended down 3.59 at 1,627.24.

ZURICH — Shares closed firmer after Wall Street's early 40-point rise and firmer dollar. The SPI index ended up 6.2 at the day's high of 1,111.8.

PARIS — Signs of a stronger than expected recovery in the U.S. economy and hopes for a cut in French interest rates pushed the market to a nine-week closing high. The CAC-40 index ended up 14.32 at 1,833.45.

LONDON — Shares set a new closing high after a week in which the Soviet coup attempt sent prices spinning. Positive sentiment was boosted by evidence of economic recovery in the U.K. and USA. The FTSE index ended up 17.7 at 2,640.7.

NEW YORK — Blue chips traded at fresh session highs in hectic midday activity as investors flocked to big industrial stocks in hopes the U.S. economy was rebounding. The Dow was up 44 at 3,052.

Bankers in Egypt seem divided over new banking moves

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's bankers are undecided over government plans to give the central bank tougher watchdog powers and moves to bail out the Cairo affiliate of the scandal-hit Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI).

Some say a government decision to advise banks to help bail out the Bank of Credit and Commerce Misr (BCCM) may push foreign banks to withdraw from Egypt rather than boost capital in joint ventures to new higher levels demanded by the central bank.

Others, their eyes on private Egyptian holdings of \$50 billion stashed in overseas accounts, say local investor confidence is more important.

If the government is determined not to let other banks allow BCCM to fail, it also plans much tighter vetting of Egypt's often unruly financial sector to prevent a repeat of the disaster, they say.

"There will be a lot of mergers and acquisitions," Mahmoud Abdul Aziz, chairman of the state-owned National Bank of Egypt (NBE) told Reuters. "It's what's happening all over the world in banking."

Under a draft law which goes before parliament next month, the central bank will be able to liquidate or merge any bank it decides has chronic liquidity problems. Banks will have to meet a capital to assets ratio for the first time in Egypt.

"The new law will give a strong basis for authority by administration and not negotiations and ends overlap between the central bank and the ministry of economy," Mr. Abdul Aziz added.

Private bankers criticised the law, saying foreign banks would be reluctant to lay down more capital if they thought it would go to bailing out other banks such as BCCM.

"There's a foreign side to this," the chief dealer at a private bank said. "Maybe the Egyptian banks have to accept the decision, but what about the foreign banks?"

Foreign banks, including First National Bank of Chicago, Mitsui Bank and American Express Bank, have moved into Egypt since the 1970s when former President Anwar Sadat's open door policy allowed the formation of joint ventures.

Private bankers say foreign banks, although attracted by freeing of interest and exchange rates as part of economic reforms Egypt agreed with the International Monetary Fund, were scrutinising the way the authorities handled the BCCM case.

The government called top banking executives in for talks and later said it would not allow any bank to fall after BCCM, which had up to 65 per cent of its estimated \$620 million holdings in its parent BCCI, faced a run on its deposits.

Shortly afterwards, financial sources said Egyptian banks had placed 0.25 per cent of their deposits, worth about \$60 million, interest-free in BCCM and had agreed to put as much again in soon.

Mr. Abdul Aziz said the government had created "a general understanding" among the banking community: "Investor confidence will grow," he said.

Under the new law, the central bank will act as general shareholders to the four state-run banks — NBE, Banque Misr, Bank of Alexandria, and Banque du Caire — which account for more than half of Egypt's banking activity.

As well as BCCM, several Islamic investment houses have either crashed or face liquidity problems in Egypt.

The country's private banking sector boomed in the 1970s and 1980s on money earned by expatriates in the Gulf but was often unregulated as untrained management handled billions of dollars belonging to depositors unused to the idea of banks.

Bush resumes aid to USSR and urges far-reaching reforms

KENNEBUNKPOPT, Maine (R) — President George Bush has lifted a freeze on economic aid to the Soviet Union in order to give "instant support" to the beleaguered country following the defeat of a right-wing coup, but remains cool to sending massive amounts of money.

Mr. Bush is also publicly urging Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to capitalise on the rout of old-guard Kremlin hardliners by launching a far-reaching reform programme to revive the Soviet economy and speeding the pace of talks on the Baltic republic's bid for independence.

The restored U.S. aid, which was put on hold Monday after the coup that briefly swept Mr. Gorbachev from power, included \$1.5 billion in farm credits and technical assistance in revamping such areas of the Soviet economic infrastructure as food distribution and energy production.

A proposal to grant the Soviet Union most-favoured-nation trade status, which would make its exports eligible for the lowest possible U.S. tariffs, was also back on track, administration and congressional officials said.

But Mr. Bush was cool to proposals for large-scale Western financial assistance to the Soviet Union to help consolidate democratic gains — a stance that could put the United States on a collision course with other major industrial democracies.

"I don't see anything right now on that," he said. "We agreed in London on a certain path, and if there's something that we could do that would further enhance economic recovery we'll always be glad to take a look," he said.

Mr. Bush contends it would be counter-productive and wasteful to give the Soviet Union massive amounts of cash before it transformed its state-controlled economy to a free market.

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Show: 5:15, 8:30

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Tel: 634144

Sean Connery & Christopher Lambert in HIGH LANDER II

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30.

RAINBOW

Tel: 625155

FAST FOR WORD

Show: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

NUJUM

Tel: 675571

To Be Opened Soon Nabil Mashini Theatre

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Croatia to go on offensive in 'dirty war' with Serbs

BELGRADE (Agencies) — Croatia said Friday it would go on the offensive in a 'dirty war' with Serbian guerrillas and Yugoslav army troops it says are besieging its territory.

"We will launch offensive actions without any illusions because this is a dirty war," Croatian Defence Minister Luka Bebic said.

"We are heading for a war which could be long lasting and we cannot afford to waste any more time," he told a news conference in the rebel republic's capital Zagreb.

Mr. Bebic's warning suggested that Croatian forces would storm Serbian positions and villages to weed out the guerrillas and possibly engage the Yugoslav army in direct conflict.

Yugoslav News Agency, Tanjug, reported fresh violence Friday in the town of Pakrac, hit by some of the worst fighting last week.

It said several mortar bombs hit the town and that a fire was raging at a woodworking factory, the mainstay of the Pakrac's economy.

On Thursday, Croatian President Franjo Tudjman, facing bloody conflict in at least three parts of his republic, gave federal leaders an ultimatum to curb actions by Serbian guerrillas and the army by the end of the

month. "The Yugoslav presidency should appeal to the Republic of Serbia to stop immediately the organisation and support for the armed uprising in Croatia which has as its goal the division of Croatian territory," Mr. Tudjman said.

The presidency was due to meet Friday to discuss the role of the army in the conflict.

The Hungarian News Agency (MTI) reported Friday that Yugoslav warplanes had infringed Hungarian airspace three times Thursday during missile attacks on villages in Croatia.

Major General Jozsef Biro, Hungary's deputy chief of staff, told MTI two of the eight aircraft had fired air to ground missiles at Croatian villages from Hungary's airspace.

Croatia accuses Serbia of using the rebels and the federal army, whose officer corps is dominated by Serbs, of carving out large chunks of Croatia to form the borders of a greater Serbia which would rise from the ashes of Yugoslavia.

Belgrade Television reported that seven Serbs were killed Thursday in a Croatian police attack on the village of Kinjacs, in the Banija region southeast of Zagreb.

The daily Serbian newspaper Politika said four people were killed in the attack which in-

involved two armoured vehicles. Neither report could be independently confirmed.

Police contacted in the nearby town of Sisak refused to comment directly but warned that journalists who wrote such reports "would be treated appropriately," if they turned up in the area.

At least 20 people were killed in clashes Thursday, underlining the helplessness of Yugoslavia's civilian leaders in the face of increasingly ruthless violence.

More than 250 people have been killed in Croatia in a conflict which has set village against village, neighbours against one another and created more than 100,000 refugees.

Violence began in earnest when Croatia and Slovenia declared independence on June 25, sparking revolt by Croatia's Serbian community which refuses to live in an independent Croatia.

Defence Minister Bebic said Croatia lacked the firepower needed for an all-out conflict with the army but said Croatian factories were working on producing light weapons.

"Croatian factories are producing mortars, mortar grenades and hand grenades," he said.

Croatian police and national guardsmen have taken a beating from the rebels and the army which has hit them with tanks, artillery and aircraft.

Meanwhile MTI reported Thursday that thousands of refugees fleeing from battle-scarred Croatia are filling Hungarian shelters.

The mayor of Mohacs, 12 kilometres north of Hungary's border with Croatia, told MTI that between 6,000 and 8,000 refugees had arrived in his town since the weekend. The agency didn't give the mayor's name.

One refugee shelter in the surrounding Baranya County was reported full and other facilities were filling fast, MTI said.

According to the refugees, their towns and villages are being destroyed in clashes between Croatian security forces and armed rebel Serbs, MTI said.

The Hungarian Interior Ministry's refugee office reported that 95 per cent of the recent refugees are Croats, as opposed to the mainly ethnic Hungarians who have been leaving Serbia's Vojvodina province in the past weeks.

Smaller numbers of ethnic Hungarians and Germans, as well as Serbs were also arriving, MTI said.

Col. Janos Zubek, border police spokesman told the agency that about half of the refugees fleeing their homes in a hurry arrive with no passports.

They are allowed in on humanitarian grounds, Zubek said.

China releases prominent dissident journalist

PEKING (R) — Shanghai police have released one of China's most prominent dissident journalists after grilling him for weeks about underground dissident movements.

Zhang Weiguo, who was detained on July 30, has been freed but was banned from leaving Shanghai, friends said late Thursday.

Mr. Zhang, 34, was the Peking bureau chief of Shanghai's liberal World Economic Herald before the government shut the paper at the height of the student-led pro-democracy movement in May, 1989.

He was arrested in June that year after China's army crushed pro-democracy protests in Peking's Tiananmen Square with heavy loss of life. Though he was never tried or sentenced, he was not released until February this year.

He was detained briefly again in May when police interrogated him about his knowledge of underground anti-government publications.

A large convoy of police seized him from a relative's home in southern Zhejiang province on July 30 and transferred him to a military camp on the outskirts of Shanghai, where he was held as the sole inmate of a heavily guarded building, friends said.

No official charges were brought, but police questioned him repeatedly about possible underground dissident groups in Shanghai as well as interviews he had granted to foreign journalists and articles he had written that appeared in the Hong Kong press, they said.

He was released Wednesday with a warning not to speak to the foreign media.

Mr. Zhang is one of the very few Chinese intellectuals who still dare openly to question the government, which has clamped down tightly on dissent since the 1989 crackdown.

Meanwhile, the United States is "deeply disturbed" by news that two of China's most prominent dissidents have begun a hunger strike in prison, and is urging Peking to grant the two men amnesty.

In an official statement Friday, the U.S. embassy in Peking said it hoped China would allow independent visits to Wang Juntao and Chen Ziming, who are serving 13-year sentences for their role in the 1989 pro-democracy protests.

"Information about the transfer of these two and others to Peking prison number two, and the unhealthy conditions in which they are reportedly being held, is deeply disturbing," the statement said.

"We have expressed our strong concern to the Chinese about those conditions and about Mr. Wang's deteriorating health," it said. "We have told the Chinese we would welcome visits to Mr. Wang and Mr. Chen by outside observers."

Manila police capture NPA propaganda chief

MANILA (R) — The Philippine military announced Friday the capture of the propaganda chief of the Communist New People's Army (NPA), dealing another blow to the underground rebel movement.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Lisandro Abadía said Roberto Roldan, 41-year-old propaganda head of the NPA's Political Department, was arrested by police and intelligence agents in a shopping complex in a Manila suburb Wednesday.

Mr. Roldan was presented to media at a press conference at the military headquarters of Camp Aguinaldo Friday, and was afterwards led away blindfolded.

The military said in a statement that Mr. Roldan was in charge of

the NPA's propaganda apparatus in the Philippines and abroad, distributing videos and pamphlets and raising funds.

"With Mr. Roldan's capture, the propaganda effort of the local Communist movement has suffered a very serious setback," Gen. Abadía said in the press statement.

"As the top Communist propagandist, Mr. Roldan ran a destructive propaganda machinery aimed at discrediting and weakening the government," the statement added.

The capture of Mr. Roldan was the latest in a series of arrests of Communist leaders by the military that has severely weakened the NPA which has been fighting for a Marxist state in the Philippines for the past 22 years.

Gorbachev feels betrayed but keeps sense of humour

MOSCOW (R) — A clearly shaken Mikhail Gorbachev spoke of his sense of betrayal by old friends but kept a sense of humour about the failed coup against him.

In the same hall where just two days ago the men who plotted his downfall gave a news conference, Mr. Gorbachev emerged from three days of Crimean house arrest looking fit and well, wearing a classic dark suit and maroon tie and with a confident stride.

But at first he seemed to have difficulty speaking — a problem he rarely experiences in public — and it was clear he had been stunned to see men he had chosen for high office turn against him.

In particular, Mr. Gorbachev said, he was hurt by the involvement of Dmitri Yavov and Vladimir Kryuchkov, the former heads of the Defence Ministry and the KGB, in the eight-member Emergency Committee which ousted him Monday.

"I believed in them," Mr. Gorbachev said of Mr. Merzhbal Yavov and Mr. Kryuchkov to the hall packed with reporters, some of whom gave the Soviet President a standing ovation when he came in.

"Even now I have to say I did not believe Yavov was part of that group," Mr. Gorbachev said of the former defence minister, who had been an associate since Mr. Gorbachev's days as a Communist Party leader in Stavropol, in southern Russia.

"I thought maybe his name was written in just to make things look better."

As for Mr. Kryuchkov, Mr. Gorbachev said he had selected him as KGB chief because he had not been a professional spy all his life but also had a political career.

"You will say that this does not relieve me of responsibility and I know that, too... this has been a very difficult trial for me," he said.

Gorbachev, describing his Crimean ordeal, at first spoke so slowly that impatient journalists began interrupting him with questions.

But then he seemed to regain his old spirit, making energetic jabs at the air, thumping the



Mikhail Gorbachev

podium and cracking jokes about 72 hours of isolation in his "garrison" on the Black Sea.

After the coup collapsed, many world leaders telephoned him in the Crimea. A lot of them spoke of the need for "more decisive" cooperation with the Soviet Union, Mr. Gorbachev said, adding that this could be one good result of the affair.

"Everyone called except (Libyan leader Muammar) Qadhafi (Iraqi leader Saddam) Hussein and (Latvian Communist Party chief Alfred) Rubiks," he said, prompting laughter and applause at his comparison of Rubiks with the leaders of Libya and Iraq. "Rubiks supported the coup," Gorbachev said by way of explanation to those who missed the joke.

If some of the reporters appeared to lose their objectivity in the excitement of the moment, Mr. Gorbachev also appeared more at home than he has ever been with the media.

He said he was grateful for the grilling reporters gave to the coup's leaders at the Tuesday press conference at which they sought the world's approval for their actions.

"I heard your question (on Tuesday). It was a good one," he told one Soviet reporter.

"The people stood in the way of dictatorship, but without the activity of the press, that would have been impossible."

Teenager who hit million cannot collect, court says

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A court refused to force a Nevada casino to pay an underage gambler \$1 million he won from a slot machine, and the young lawyer says he'll appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Kirk Erickson, 19, when he and his family visited Caesar's Palace casino in Las Vegas in August 1987. He won a jackpot of \$1,061,812 on a \$1 slot machine, but the casino checked his identification and refused to pay, since the legal age for gambling in Nevada is 21.

The 9th U.S. circuit court of appeals ruled Wednesday that Caesar's Palace doesn't have to pay Erickson. The court said that even if Erickson's jackpot was withheld fraudulently, casino winnings are gambling debts regulated solely by state law.

I. Nelson Rose, a lawyer for the Erickson family, said the young man had not known of the Nevada law. He said he had been to a racetrack in Arkansas, where the gambling age was 18. Rose said Caesar's "taught him to gamble," referring to hotel-room videotapes on the fundamentals of casino games. "They gave him small winnings to entice him to continue. They took his money when the kid lost. When he won a large amount, only then did they check his I.D.," he said.

Gorbachev's grandchild was coup hostage

MOSCOW (AP) — Mikhail Gorbachev's 4-year-old granddaughter was a blissfully ignorant hostage during the failed attempt by hardliners to oust him, he told a news conference Thursday. The Soviet president said he was held under house arrest at his vacation home along the Black Sea. With him were 32 loyal bodyguards and his immediate family — his wife Raisa, daughter Irina, son-in-law Anatoly and granddaughter, Anastasia, 4. Anastasia endured it best of all. She did not understand anything and she was running around, asking everyone to take her to the beach... and we had to take her," he said. "But in the final days the guards asked us to stop, because anything could happen, anything at all. So we locked ourselves up, so to speak." With a catch in his throat, Gorbachev added that, "Raisa Maximovna and my daughter took it very hard. Yesterday, Raisa Maximovna was not well."

Gorbachev listened to BBC, VOA

MOSCOW (AP) — Like many ordinary Soviets, President Mikhail Gorbachev relied on the BBC, the Voice of America and other foreign radio stations for accurate news during the attempted coup against him. Mr. Gorbachev told a news conference Thursday that his telephones were cut during the three days he spent under house arrest at his Crimean vacation retreat. The coup-leaders also censored the Soviet media. "But we found some type of old receivers in maintenance rooms, and we fixed the antennae... and we began to get whatever we could from there," Mr. Gorbachev said. "We got the BBC best of all... (radio) liberty, and then the Voice of America came on," he said.

Vodka company raises toast to victory of Russians

NEW YORK (R) — Stolichnaya Russian vodka, whose fortunes have waxed and waned with the ups and downs of Soviet politics, moved quickly Thursday to capitalize on the failure of this week's coup. The vodka company unveiled a full-page advertisement to be published Friday in several major U.S. newspapers saluting the victory of the grass-roots opposition over hardline Communists who attempted to oust President Mikhail Gorbachev. The ad includes a photo of Lenin's Palace Square, filled with Russians demonstrating against the coup. "We're prouder than ever to be Russian," says the ad. "Underneath in smaller type: 'Stolichnaya vodka.'" But Russian vodka wasn't the only thing being hawked. In Orange, California, "Gorby dolls" were the hottest selling item in a novelty shop as hundreds of customers descended on the store to snap up the likenesses of the Soviet president.

Stage, screen actress Colleen Dewhurst dies

WHITE PLAINS, New York (AP) — Colleen Dewhurst, who more than any other American actress was associated with the plays of Eugene O'Neill, died Thursday. She was 65.

Dewhurst died at home in this New York City suburb, said Jan Struts, a spokeswoman for the Westchester County Medical Examiner's Office. Dewhurst died of natural causes, said Struts, who wouldn't elaborate.

The actress, who won two Tony Awards, also appeared on the big and small screens. She won three Emmys.

Her film roles included a minor part in this year's Dying Young which starred her son Campbell Scott, and a role Woody Allen's 1977 movie Annie Hall.

She also had been president of the Actors' Equity Union since 1985.

On Broadway, she won a Tony Award in 1974 as best actress for her performance as Josie Hogan, the lonely but big-hearted farm girl in O'Neill's A Moon For The Misbegotten.

Her last Broadway appearances were in 1988, when she alternated roles in O'Neill's masterpiece Long Day's Journey Into Night.

the playwright's exorcism of his own devastating family life, and Ah, Wilderness, his only comedy. "I always say that I am not an O'Neill expert," Dewhurst said in a 1988 interview. "I feel all I really know are his women."

"O'Neill's women have great passion, a passion for life," she said. "Nothing is done half-way."

In 1987, she had a one-woman show, written by Barbara Gelb, about the life of Carlotta Monterey, O'Neill's exotic wife.

A native of Montreal, Dewhurst and her mother moved to Wisconsin after her parents divorced when she was 13.

Dewhurst moved to New York in 1946 and studied at the American Academy of Dramatic Art. She made her Broadway debut in 1952 in a country dance scene in a revival of O'Neill's Desire Under the Elms.

She played Kate in producer Joe Papp's 1957 production of The Taming Of The Shrew, and won an Obie Award for her performance. She also won an Obie as the sensual Abbie Putnam in O'Neill's Desire Under the Elms.

She won a Tony for All The Way Home in 1961.

35 hurt as plane makes emergency landing in U.S.

SEATTLE, Washington (R) — A Tokyo-bound Northwest Airlines jet, one of its four engines ablaze, made an emergency landing in Seattle Thursday and nearly 400 people evacuated the plane down safety slides, aviation officials said.

Eleven passengers were seriously injured as they left the aircraft but none of the injuries was due to the fire, Northwest spokesman Doug Miller said.

Firefighters used foam to extinguish the fire as passengers hurried through emergency exits and down inflated safety chutes to the runway at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport in the northwestern United States.

"Some people were pretty shaken up," said passenger Greg

Shaeffer of Seattle, who was on his way to Singapore.

Northwest Flight Seven originated in Minneapolis and was bound for Tokyo with 366 passengers and 18 crew when the fire broke out in an engine shortly after takeoff from Seattle, Port of Seattle spokeswoman Barbara Stewart said.

The plane immediately turned back and the pilot notified the control tower, she said. Fire and crash equipment trailed the jet down the runway after it touched down.

"You could see the smoke and some flames," Ms. Stewart said.

In total, 35 people were treated for injuries, most of them minor, Port of Seattle spokeswoman Rachel Carson said.

Inter-Korean premiers' talks postponed until October

SEOUL (R) — North and South Korea will postpone until October a meeting between their prime ministers originally scheduled for next week, Seoul officials said Friday.

A spokesman for the South-North Dialogue Office said both sides agreed to the postponement after a six-hour meeting at the truce village of Panmunjom on the border north of Seoul.

The spokesman said the meeting, already postponed from February, would be held in Pyon-

gyang from Oct. 22 to 25.

He gave no further details, but North Korea earlier this week sought to change arrangements for the meeting ostensibly because of a cholera outbreak in South Korea.

South Korean officials and Seoul-based diplomats dismissed the expressed fear of cholera and said it appeared Pyongyang was trying to buy time while it sorted out its position with regard to the current turmoil in the Soviet Union.

Baltics capitalise on coup failure and purge Communists

TALLINN, Soviet Union (R) — Soviet troops have abandoned strategic points in the Baltic republics, providing the first tangible benefits for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania of the failed coup in Moscow.

For their part, the separatist republics exploited disarray in central government by taking further steps towards secession Thursday and purging local supporters of the hardliners who tried to seize power in Moscow.

Lithuania, the most aggressive in its claim to independence, voted to ban the Communist Party and seize its property in the republic and suspended publication of newspapers opposed to independence.

In Parliament in neighbouring Latvia, a similar measure, likely to be passed Friday, would ban the Communist Party and seize its property in the republic and suspended publication of newspapers opposed to independence.

A statement from the republic's government said the troops' commander telephoned Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis to ask him to take the tower and television station back under Lithuanian control.

The January crackdown, which cost 14 lives and prompted global condemnation, was the climax of a standoff with Moscow prompted by Lithuania's independence declaration in March 1990.

This week Estonia and Latvia

responded to the coup attempt by declaring outright independence themselves.

The Latvian government said all buildings held by Soviet troops had been vacated and in Estonia Soviet soldiers left the main radio and television tower which had been taken during this week's coup attempt.

The troop withdrawals were the strongest indication yet that the collapse of the three-day attempt to overthrow Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev would strengthen the position — and self-confidence — of the three republics.

In Tallinn, Estonian Prime Minister Edgar Savisaar said he wanted to involve the Russian Federation and its President Boris Yeltsin, hero of the anti-coup forces, in talks on independence. Unlike Soviet authorities, Russia has recognised Estonian sovereignty.

Estonia and Lithuania reduced central government influence on their territory. Both announced criminal investigations against those who collaborated with the conspirators.

Mr. Savisaar said heads of several Soviet-controlled factories, centres of resistance to independence would be sacked.

He also ordered the closure of a radio station opposed to independence.

Lithuania suspended publication of a host of newspapers that carried decrees of the short-lived emergency committee.

And the parliament in Vilnius, barricaded since last January's

clashes, voted to outlaw the Lithuanian Communist Party and confiscate its property.

It termed the party "an illegal organisation which aims to destroy the independence of the Republic of Lithuania by means of coercion, and to usurp power," local journalists reported.

Tension remained high in the region.

A Lithuanian was killed Wednesday night after elite Soviet commandos penetrated barricades around the Lithuanian parliament. Two civilians and three soldiers were injured.

In Latvia's capital Riga, a broadcasting official died Wednesday from injuries received when his car was hit by an armoured vehicle taking troops to occupy the radio centre.

After the event, nobody supported the coup.

For three days, while a committee of hardline conspirators tried to seize control of the Soviet Union, opposition from Communist Party, KGB and national media was conspicuously absent.

On Thursday, less than 24 hours after President Mikhail Gorbachev returned to power, all these organisations were at pains to say they were free from blame.

The KGB state security service, whose chairman Vladimir Kryuchkov was one of the chief conspirators and whose officers held Mr. Gorbachev captive for three days in his Crimean holiday home, denied responsibility.

"KGB servicemen have nothing in common with illegal actions by the group of adventur-

ists. They are aggrieved by the fact that the honour of state security bodies has been sullied by the Soviet KGB head's participation in the so-called emergency committee," the KGB ruling board announced.

The Soviet Communist Party, which Mr. Gorbachev heads, was equally adamant in pleading its innocence.

The activities of the conspirators "were secret from the party leadership, endangered the development of democratic process and dealt a serious blow to the country and the Soviet Communist Party," a statement said.

Almost simultaneously, the press office of Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev, a leading liberal, said he had obtained a copy of a draft resolution from the party's Central Committee supporting the coup.

A note from the secretariat had asked him to ensure party members complied with a state of emergency, the office said.

The documents prompted Mr. Nazarbayev to resign from the party's secretariat and politburo.

While the conspirators closed down Russian Republican television, which would probably have resisted them, central television stayed open throughout, interspersing the committee's decrees with plenty of circus, ballet and classical music.

But Thursday's liberal daily Izvestia quoted the head of Central Television, Leonid Kravchenko, as saying that broadcast-

ing serious music had been a kind of protest.

Two days late, dramatic Beethoven music accompanied footage of soldiers shooting demonstrators who tried to stop tanks loyal to the coup smashing through their barricades.

Vremya finally showed the tens of thousands of protesters who guarded the Russian Parliament, focus of resistance to the coup, as they prepared for an expected assault by Soviet tanks.

"This is where our government was saved, where democracy was defended... all honest people found time to come here," ran the commentary.

The Soviet News Agency (TASS) which carried the first announcement Monday of the takeover also changed its tone.

By Thursday the Emergency Committee, its members now arrested, under guard — or in the case of Interior Minister Boris Pugo, dead — had become "the so-called Emergency Commit-

[Handwritten signature]